

## Klibi calls for action for peace

TUNIS (R) — The head of the Arab League appealed on Tuesday in a new year message for concerted international action to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Chadi Klibi, secretary general of the 21-member league, singled out the problems of Lebanon, which he said had become "the shattered mirror" of the Middle East conflict. "The duty and honour of the international community demand that it works to find, within the framework of international law, a settlement of the Palestinian problem and to end a conflict which has continued for nearly 40 years," he said. He urged Palestinians to reject "a kind of violence contrary to the values on which their people base the legitimacy of their struggle — which must continue and which we must support with all our force. Our wish is that the coming year should be one of great peace initiatives in this region of the Middle East, and which will see the end of the Afghan tragedy and an honourable settlement of the Iraq-Iran conflict."

# Jordan Times

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## Happy New Year

The Jordan Times will not be published on Thursday and Friday because of the New Year holiday on Wednesday and our regular holiday on Thursday. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Saturday, Jan. 3, 1987. The Jordan Times wishes its readers and advertisers a very happy and prosperous new year.

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## Rifai meets Mufti and Haifa Bashir

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai received in two separate meetings on Tuesday Mrs. Haifa Al Bashir, head of the Jordanian Women's Federation, and Mrs. Inam Al Mufti, director general of the Queen Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

## Saudi crown prince begins Morocco visit

RABAT (R) — Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah arrived here Tuesday for a four-day official visit to Morocco during which he is expected to discuss preparations for next month's Islamic summit in Kuwait. The Iran-Iraq war, the situation in the Middle East, the "camps war" in Lebanon and bilateral relations are expected to be among topics he will discuss with King Hassan and other officials, diplomatic sources said. Prince Abdullah, a frequent visitor to Morocco, is returning an official visit to Saudi Arabia last year by Moroccan Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed, who greeted him at the airport on Tuesday.

## Egypt adopts new election law

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's parliament on Tuesday endorsed a new controversial electoral law, providing for a mixture of party-backed and independent candidacies, amid protests and an opposition walkout. Opposition members claimed in a statement distributed later that parliament, dominated by the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP), had passed the law in the absence of a quorum.

## Exxon leaves S. Africa

NEW YORK (AP) — Exxon Corp. on Tuesday announced it had sold its interest in its South African affiliates, joining the exodus of American companies leaving the troubled land. The biggest U.S. oil company said the two small South African companies, which have a combined workforce of about 200, had been sold to an independent trust established to continue business and pursue social responsibility and employee support programmes.

## France: No military role in Chad

PARIS (R) — French officials repeated on Tuesday that Paris would not intervene in the fighting in northern Chad as Libyan troops were reported to have captured an oasis straddling the main highway south. Officials released the text of a message from President Francois Mitterrand to Chadian leader Hissene Habre saying that France would continue backing the Chadian army but would not intervene north of the 16th parallel.

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# King, in meeting with O'Connor, renews call for peace conference

Archbishop of New York praises Jordan's efforts to solve Middle East problem

By Najwa Najjar  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and New York Roman Catholic Cardinal John O'Connor on Tuesday reviewed the latest developments in the Palestinian problem and Jordan's efforts to achieve a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

During the meeting at Al Nadwa Palace, the King reiterated Jordan's call for the convening of an international conference on the Middle East to be attended by all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Answering reporters' questions after the meeting Cardinal O'Connor praised Jordan's efforts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. The King has "a strong sense of

urgency that if nothing is done within the next year or two then conceivably the general uneasiness in the region will spill over and there would be war and a lost opportunity," the archbishop of New York said.

Cardinal O'Connor, who arrived in Jordan on Sunday, said: "I think the King is a man of dialogue and is urgently trying to develop some terms to achieve a just and lasting peace."

"His Majesty repeatedly emphasised that he and Jordan want peace and it is his judgement

that all the Arab World wants peace as well. He takes for granted that Israel wants peace. This was the tenor of the talks," he added.

The King told him that Jordan viewed the Palestinian problem as an issue that concerns the world community, Cardinal O'Connor said. "He, more than others, seems to feel the need of involving many powers and, certainly the Security Council members," he said.

"I was heartened by his strong commitment to peace. I came away with an increased sense of urgency which reasserts my beliefs about the need for a dialogue and for all parties to recognise the problem, the cardinal said.

In a later interview, he again stressed the need for dialogue grouping all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict. "I did not come here to solve the problem, but people like me point to the problem," he told Jordan Television.

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## Egypt presents new peace proposals

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel's foreign ministry director-general, Avraham Amir, probing Middle East peace prospects with Egyptian officials, said Tuesday he had been discussing new Egyptian ideas.

Speaking to reporters after two hours of talks with Foreign Minister Ahmad Esmat Abdul Meguid, he said the discussions were "good" but declined to elaborate on the new Egyptian proposals.

Dr. Abdul Meguid said Egypt's aim was to convene an international Middle East peace conference and that Israel's position on this remained unchanged.

Both sides agreed on a preparatory committee for the conference during talks in Alexandria last September between President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres when he was Israeli prime minister.

Dr. Abdul Meguid said arrangements were underway for another visit to Egypt by Mr.

Peres but gave no details. Mr. Peres said Tuesday that a visit by a top U.S. State Department official next month is likely to renew a drive to launch Middle East peace talks.

Richard W. Murphy, assistant secretary of state for the Near East, is expected in the region by mid-January at a time when Egyptian and Jordanian leaders have been exploring ways to end a year-long peace stalemate.

"We will begin to renew the political process with this visit," Mr. Peres told reporters in a northern town.

Mr. Peres indicated he expected Mr. Murphy to explore ways to prepare for an international peace conference. But he also cautioned no quick breakthroughs were expected.

Mr. Murphy was expected to visit the region on the eve of an Islamic summit of key Arab leaders in Kuwait where peace efforts are expected to be raised.

Officials also said Mr. Murphy was likely to explore ways to set up a committee that would try to

bridge gaps between the Arabs and Israel about the format of an international peace conference.

Mr. Peres's successor, right-wing leader Yitzhak Shamir, never fully endorsed the Peres-Mubarak agreement on a preparatory panel for an international conference, and there was never any discussion about who would be on the committee. Mr. Shamir became premier in October.

West European leaders have suggested assigning the task to the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. Mr. Shamir has rejected the idea and has said he wants the committee to be made up of Jordanian, Egyptian and Israeli delegates.

Mr. Peres also voiced opposition to the idea in a speech in Jerusalem on Tuesday, in which he likened the idea of having the Security Council prepare a peace conference to "trying to have a wedding without the groom and without the bride but just the five mothers in law."

## Maksoud: Israel wields veto power over U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chief representative of the Arab League in the United States said Tuesday the Iran-contra affair demonstrated an Israeli "veto power" over U.S. policy in the Middle East.

In a year-end news conference, Clovis Maksoud said the controversy should cause a reassessment by President Ronald Reagan's administration and Congress of America's attitude toward Israel.

Specifically, the Arab League official said he hoped "the disclosure of Israel's role in this whole episode undoubtedly would open the eyes of some people in Congress who have given Israel

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## 'Israeli official suggested contra funds diversion'

NEW YORK (Agencies) — U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese has informed congressional investigators he was told by Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North that the idea of diverting Iran arms sales proceeds to Nicaraguan contra rebels was suggested by a senior Israeli official, the New York Times reported Tuesday.

The newspaper, quoting congressional sources, said Mr. Meese told a closed committee hearing that when he questioned Col. North on Nov. 23, the officer told him the idea had come from the Israelis.

The Times said a Justice Department official had confirmed the account of Mr. Meese's testimony.

On Nov. 25 Mr. Meese told a news conference that the Israelis were involved in the transfer of funds. Col. North, an assistant to National Security Adviser John Poindexter, was dismissed when the affair became public, and Vice Admiral Poindexter resigned.

The Israeli government has repeatedly denied any connection to the diversion of money to the Nicaraguan rebels.

The sources quoted by the newspaper disagreed over the identity of the Israeli official, but one said Mr. Meese named him as David Kinche, director general of the Israeli foreign ministry.

The New York Times quoted

## Diplomat says Abu Nidal was behind Sati murder

ANKARA (Agencies) — A Jordanian diplomat told a court on Tuesday he believed the Abu Nidal Palestinian guerrilla group was responsible for killing another Jordanian envoy in Ankara last year.

Mohammad Hilal, consul at the Jordanian embassy in Ankara, addressing the court at his own request, said the Jordanian government believed the murder was committed by the Abu Nidal group.

"Like every murder it commits there is only one killer and one mastermind is also behind this incident," he said.

Embassy First Secretary Zivad Al Sati was shot dead in July 1985 as he sat in his car at an Ankara traffic intersection.

Nine people were indicted last month at the state security court over the murder but charges against Adnan Musa Suleiman Ammerin, a Jordanian embassy employee, and Mohammad Darwish Baladi, a Syrian diplomat alleged to have masterminded the killing, were dropped because of diplomatic immunity.

Asked if he had any papers concerning the case, Mr. Hilal said the only one was a document proving that Abdul Salam Al Haj, an absent defendant, said in the

(Continued on page 2)



His Majesty King Hussein meets New York Roman Catholic Cardinal John O'Connor on Tuesday (photo by Youssef Al-Ajlani)

## Assad, Gemayel to meet next month; 'camps war' continues

BEIRUT (AP) — President Amin Gemayel is expected to hold talks in Damascus next month with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in a bid to resolve Lebanon's wars and shore up its sagging economy, Beirut newspapers reported Tuesday.

The report came as sporadic mortar duels flared at Beirut's refugee camps of Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh despite a unilateral ceasefire called by Justice Minister Nabih Berri, leader of the mainstream Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia.

Police said four people were killed and 24 wounded in fighting between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's fighters and Mr. Berri's militiamen since he announced the truce at a news conference in Damascus on Monday evening.

The new casualties raised to 532 people killed and 1,369 injured the toll from PLO-Amal warfare in Beirut and South Lebanon since Nov. 24.

Syrian-backed Amal is trying to crush a comeback by the PLO to the Lebanese powerbase it lost in Israel's 1982 invasion.

Mr. Berri termed his ceasefire offer a new year "gift" and said that his forces would also lift their

siege of Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and South Lebanon.

However, police said the Amal siege persisted and the two warring factions duelled with mortars and rocket-propelled grenades.

Beirut's leading daily paper, An Nahar, said the Gemayel-Assad meeting would be held either next week or just before the Islamic summit scheduled to be convened in Kuwait on Jan. 26.

The report followed two days of contacts between Syrian and Lebanese officials on what An Nahar and other Lebanese papers described as efforts to convene the 12th Assad-Gemayel summit.

Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, his country's main expert on Lebanon, on Monday sent written messages to Parliament Speaker Hussein Husseini and Education Minister Salim Al Hoss as part of contacts between Beirut and Damascus to set the stage for the summit.

The messages were delivered by the director of Mr. Khaddam's office, Mustafa Hajj Ali, who handed a similar letter to Prime Minister Rashid Karami on Sunday.

Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, maintains 25,000

troops in eastern and northern provinces under a 1976 peacekeeping mandate from the 21-nation Arab League.

Mr. Husseini told An Nahar that Mr. Khaddam's message contained "proposals for political reforms" in Lebanon that had been presented by Mr. Gemayel to Mr. Assad through intermediaries to end Lebanon's wars and shore up the nation's sagging economy.

He termed Mr. Gemayel's proposals "general outlines" and said he told the Syrian envoy that Muslim leaders would study these proposals to adopt a unified stand on them.

Mr. Husseini said "national entente, salvation and reforms" would be the outcome of renewed consultations between the Syrian and Lebanese presidents, who have not met for a year.

Mr. Gemayel refused last December to ratify a Syrian-brokered accord between Lebanese warlords to end the nation's 11-year-old civil war which has claimed more than 100,000 lives and shattered the economy.

One year after 'historic pact', peace remains as distant as ever, page 5

## Iranian rebels say Tehran guards' base set ablaze

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian soldiers protesting the government's "belligerent policies" set ablaze a Revolutionary Guards base in central Tehran, an opposition group said Tuesday.

In a telex from its Paris office, the Mujahideen-e-Khalq, the largest anti-government group, said the fire began Monday afternoon at the Vali Asr barracks, formerly known as Esfahabad.

Residents in Tehran, reached by telephone from Nicosia, said they heard loud explosions but had not been officially told what it was.

One resident, who lives several kilometres from the barracks and who did not want to be named,

said he heard an explosion which even shook his house.

"Everyone heard it. It was very loud," he said.

But an official at the office of Revolutionary Guards commander Mohsen Rezaei denied the report.

"The Vali Asr barracks is safe and intact. Nothing has happened there," he said, the official, who declined to be named.

"We are in Iran and have not heard anything. I don't understand how you, being abroad, say you have heard about it," he said, adding that the Vali Asr barracks near Qasr Prison, was under their direct supervision.

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## U.S. and Iran reportedly make progress on claims

THE HAGUE (Agencies) — American and Iranian officials have made progress toward return of \$507.7 million in Iranian funds held at the New York Federal Reserve Bank, an informed Iranian source told AP on Tuesday.

The return to Iran of all its assets blocked in the United States has been linked to possible intercession by the Iranian government on behalf of American hostages in Lebanon.

Negotiators from the New York Federal Reserve Bank, the U.S. Treasury Department, the Iranian Central Bank and the Iranian government planned to meet a second time at the Iran-U.S. claims tribunal for more discussions on the issue.

They met Monday, and further talks were expected either Tuesday night or Wednesday morning, according to Willem Hamel, deputy secretary-general of the tribunal.

"The intention is to continue discussion," said U.S. embassy spokesman Sam Wunder. "I just don't have a time on when they

would resume. It's obviously going to be some time in the near future."

"There's a good chance they'll get back together today, but it could be tomorrow," Mr. Wunder said. "There is no delay or cancellation."

In Washington, a U.S. State Department report said Monday that the talks in The Hague were not expected to win the release of American hostages held in Lebanon.

Visiting delegates from the U.S. central bank and Treasury Department had to report back on the first four hours of talks on Monday before a new meeting could be decided, Mr. Wunder said.

The talks, held at the office of the Iran-United States claims tribunal and a near-total news blackout, are the third between Iran and the United States.

The tribunal, set up by the January 1981 Algiers agreement ending the year-long American hostages crisis in Tehran, last August gave the two countries four months to reach agreement.

## Israelis reopen detention camp

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli authorities have reopened a controversial detention centre in the occupied Gaza Strip following the arrest of dozens of suspected Palestinian activists, Israeli sources said Tuesday.

Last week's arrests apparently were aimed at breaking a resistance group in the Gaza area calling itself Islamic Jihad, the sources said.

The Israeli military says the group — which is not believed to have any connection to the Lebanese movement of the same name — was responsible for stabbing to death two Israeli settlers in Gaza city in November.

The tented detention centre on the city's beach was reopened because Gaza prison was overcrowded, the sources said.

The centre was closed only weeks ago amid reports that prisoners were beaten and humiliated by guards.

About 250 detainees were held in the camp earlier this month after a wave of anti-Israeli violence in Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

Unofficially dubbed "Ansar Two" after a now-closed infamous Israeli prison for Palestinian prisoners in Lebanon, the Gaza camp is largely used to screen suspects before they are charged or freed.

In another development, two Arabic-language newspapers in East Jerusalem, Al Fajr and Al Shaab, failed to appear on Tuesday in protest against the Israeli expulsion of Al Shaab editor Akram Haniyeh on Sunday.

Mr. Haniyeh left for Switzerland on Sunday, travelled on to Paris and is expected to go to Algeria.

On Tuesday, Israeli police said they dismantled a car bomb in the southern town of Beersheba which was set to go off when a door was opened.

## Iraq threatens heavy raids on Iranian cities

BAGHDAD (R) — Defence Minister General Adnan Khairallah said Tuesday Iraqi warplanes would hit Iranian cities in force if Iran kept shelling residential areas of Iraq.

"We cannot stand seeing our people die and stay idle... if they continue attacking our cities, each and every city in Iran will be attacked with 100 planes simultaneously," he told a press conference.

Basra, in southern Iraq, has been under almost daily long-range artillery shelling at periods of the six-year-old Gulf war and Baghdad has been hit by 18 missiles since March last year, causing hundreds of civilian deaths.

Gen. Khairallah said "up to

now we have only raided military targets in Kermanshah (Bakhtar, southwest of Tehran)."

"Iraqi warplanes have launched hundreds of raids on military camps and troop concentrations in the Kermanshah area."

(Iran said more than 200 people were killed in two raids on Dec. 22 and 23).

The defence minister said an Iranian thrust across the southern front last week was what Iran had repeatedly "referred to as its 'decisive offensive'."

"According to my assessment, the last battle was to have been a decisive one if it had developed in Iran's favour."

## Japan adopts major policy change in defence spending

TOKYO (R) — The Japanese cabinet agreed on Tuesday to scrap a 10-year-old government policy limiting defence spending to one per cent of gross national product (GNP).

A government spokesman said an extraordinary cabinet meeting decided "not to apply the decision made by then Prime Minister Takeo Miki in 1976 to the compilation of defence budgets for the time being."

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's cabinet later adopted an austere national budget for the fiscal year starting on April 1, including a 5.2 per cent rise in defence spending.

The budget would raise defence spending to \$3.517 billion yen (\$22 billion), or 1.004 per cent of officially forecast GNP.

The major opposition party, the Japan Socialist Party (JSP) called Tuesday's defence spending decision a "reckless move" that sharply deviated from doctrine laid down in Japan's postwar constitution.

A JSP statement said the one per cent ceiling had prevented

Japan from again becoming a military power.

Defence is a controversial issue in Japan. But Mr. Nakasone's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has more than 300 of the 512 lower house seats, which should ensure approval of the budget when it is submitted to parliament next month.

Tuesday's cabinet decision, confirming a statement on Monday by the defence agency, was Japan's second major defence policy change since Mr. Nakasone came to power four years ago.

In 1983 he relaxed a ban on the export of weapons technology by allowing transfers to the United States, Japan's only formal ally. Next year will be the second of a five-year defence plan designed to give Japan the ability to defend itself alone against small-scale, limited aggression.

The United States has been urging Japan to increase its defence spending, and Japan's defence agency has said Japan's defences have failed to keep pace with a Soviet military build-up in Asia.



# Arab Wings anticipates profit with new jet

By Rana Sabbagh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Announcing the purchase of a new 8-passenger Sabreliner JY-AFH, Arab Wings, the Amman-based executive jet charter service said on Tuesday it projected net profit for 1986 at \$150,000, 40 per cent less than the company's corresponding figure for 1985.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, the Arab Wings Managing Director Sharif Ghazi Rakan Nasser declined to disclose the price of the new aircraft, which was bought from Lebanese Saudi Arabian businessman Rafik Al Hariri. Sharif Ghazi, described the terms of the deal as "excellent and under very good conditions". The new purchase will be financed from revenues secured through the selling of the company's two 6-seater Learjets 35A to an American party, Sharif Ghazi said.

Prior to the Arab Wings' decision to sell out its two Learjets, the two aircraft were operating on lease, without a crew, to companies in the U.S., a company official said. Sharif Ghazi said that the package for selling the two Learjets would be sealed in the coming two days.

The addition of the latest purchased JY-AFH raises the company's fleet to three Sabreliners, but the Arab Wings, Sharif Ghazi said, for the coming three years has no new plans to expand in terms of buying new carriers.

Arab Wings, which was founded in May 1975 with paid-up capital of JD 2,232,960, is a joint project between Jordan's national carrier, the Royal Jordanian (64%), and the Sultanate of Oman (36%).

The political situation in the Middle East and the sharp decline in oil prices had a relatively negative effect on the Arab Wings' profit for 1986, which dropped by almost 100,000 from its net profit figure of \$250,000 for 1985. But Sharif Ghazi maintains that the 1986 figure was "extremely" good, considering that only one out of the two Sabreliners was operating, while the other one was grounded for almost six months for refurbishing.

The managing director, who assumed his position in 1982, said he expected the Arab Wings to score a net profit of \$300,000 in 1987. Sharif Ghazi gave two reasons in support of his projection of next year's net gains: first, Arab Wings is embarking on a forceful marketing strategy to tap the potential markets in Muscat, Abu Dhabi and Riyadh; second, it is seeking three "contracts and contacts," which if secured, will render great business for the company. However, Sharif Ghazi refused to elaborate more on the three contracts and contacts, saying he would rather announce them once they are finalised.

The company's utilisation factor (hourly) for 1986 is roughly estimated at 850 flying hours, and Sharif Ghazi hopes the number will increase to meet their targeted figure of 1,200 flying

hours for 1987. "Although \$300,000 for expected profit in 1987 is an extremely conservative figure, I am quite optimistic about next year's proceedings, during which I hope many of the region's commercial and political problems will be solved," he asserted.

The Arab Wings, which has a total of 33 staff members including three captains and four first officers, was until 1982, the Arab World's only executive jet charter operator. Four years ago, the Kuwaiti Airways began their own air taxi company.

Asked whether the Kuwaiti company was a major competitor for the Arab Wings, Sharif Ghazi and the company's director for marketing and sales, Samir Bazbaz, replied that the target customers of both companies were different. "There is no competition. The company cooperates rather than competes" with Arab Wings, said Sharif Ghazi, who explained that the Kuwaiti company was offering its charter jet services for its own businessmen.

Mr. Bazbaz stressed that Arab Wings was offering its services to pan-Arab official delegations, royal families, major bankers and companies, top executives and major American television networks.

"We are not interested in competition. We can not lower our prices since we would lose, especially because we are not subsidised by the government," added Sharif Ghazi. "We'd rather lose flights than lose money."

Asked about their service rates, Mr. Bazbaz said that there were three types of charges: the list price, the contract rates (hourly rates), and the exclusive use rates, which include a fixed price of \$4,975 per day with two-hour and 30-minute free of charge each day. "Our charges are between 10 to 15 per cent more than prices asked for if the customer is flying in the first class section of any airliner. But, instead of having to wait for his connection on any carrier, the Arab Wings' jet waits for its clients," said Mr. Bazbaz.

Sharif Ghazi reiterated what Mr. Bazbaz said regarding the company's pricing system, and said that the company is setting its charges in a way to enable Arab Wings to make a margin profit of between 10 to 15 per cent.

Replying to a question, Mr. Bazbaz said "customers have to notify the company two hours ahead of their scheduled departure. We have a very efficient strategy of positioning our aircraft," said the sales director, who added that the Arab Wings jets are usually stationed in Amman, Bahrain and Dubai. In 1987, the company plans to open a



Sharif Ghazi Rakan Nasser  
base of operation in Muscat.

Arab Wings, which also offers service priority cargo operations, was founded to meet the needs of the booming economic activity in the Middle East and to facilitate travel for businessmen, government officials and others.

His Majesty King Hussein initiated the idea of the company's establishment to become a nucleus for a pan-Arab executive jet charter project. However, the Sultanate of Oman was the only Arab state to participate in the scheme.

Sharif Ghazi revealed that two other Arab countries were showing great willingness to join the Arab Wings. He did not name the two countries, but said: "I hope that Arabs see the benefit of joining the Arab Wings."

Asked whether the company was facing any travel restrictions because of the failure of a number of Arab countries to adhere to articles of the pan-Arab "Open Skies Pact," Sharif Ghazi said there were no limitations whatsoever on "air taxi" operations.

In a press conference earlier this

month, Mr. Ali Ghandour, chairman of the Royal Jordanian Airline, expressed his dissatisfaction with a number of Arab countries, who were imposing protectionist measures to save their local airlines from competing with similar other international and national carriers. During the conference, Mr. Ghandour, who also is chairman of the Arab Wings board of directors, called on the concerned Arab states, which he did not name, to stop this protectionist attitude and to adhere to the Open Skies agreement.

Sharif Ghazi and Mr. Bazbaz explained that the nature of operations regarding the commercial national airlines was very much different from the executive jet service charter transactions.

Asked whether the Arab Wings intended to extend its network destinations to cover other regions, Sharif Ghazi said there are plans to operate the company's jets to get customers from India and Pakistan. But he added: "I would like to see the business increase more than the present rates before we expand to cover other regions. I would like to turn down flight requests before we think of purchasing new aircraft or widening our network coverage."

Mr. Bazbaz, in turn, conceded that the easiest part of the company's operation was purchasing new jets, but the toughest section was to generate business.

Answering another question,

Sharif Ghazi said that Arab Wings would not resort to purchasing aircraft on leasing terms because the price for buying a jet was very low. According to official information each Sabreliner and Learjet cost almost \$2.8 million and \$2 million respectively. Sharif Ghazi stressed that the Arab Wings' operational costs were within the average limits and indicated that "we are trying as much as possible to keep our expenses low and to control our expenditures."

Other factors in favour of saving the company's expenses lies in the fact that the Sabreliners fly at an altitude of 45,000 feet, which helps cut down on fuel costs, saves time, and provides comfort to passengers. The majority of commercial airlines fly at an average altitude of 37,000 feet.

The Arab Wings' catering comes from the Royal Jordanian's kitchen, and all maintenance operations are carried out by the company's hangar located inside the airport's premises. Mr. Bazbaz explained that the company's hangar also serves the technical needs of other private and public pan-Arab owned Sabreliners and Learjets.

Sharif Ghazi and Mr. Bazbaz together emphasised that passengers travelling with Arab Wings do enjoy "excellent service on board the Sabreliner and once they reach their destinations." Each of the 8-seater jets is equipped with telephone communications from air to ground and around-the-world, and a stewardess also accompanies each voyage.

## Diplomat: Abu Nidal is behind Sati murder

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indictment to have pulled the trigger, was not in Turkey at the time of the murder. He did not elaborate.

Mr. Hilal told the court that a Jordanian student, Rifat Shaban, who appeared at the previous hearing as a witness, had visited the embassy to claim the innocence of friends among the accused. He quoted Shaban as saying they and others taken into custody during the investigation were tortured by police.

The court rejected a defence request to release the five defendants in custody—the other two are on trial in their absence—and adjourned the case until Jan. 29.

Shaban told him police had confiscated his passport to keep him from fleeing the country. Mr. Hilal said.

"Shaban said his friends were also tortured and I made him write down these allegations," added Mr. Hilal. A copy of the written statements was presented to the court.

Before Mr. Hilal testified, Presiding Judge Ekrem Celik reminded him he did not have to testify because of diplomatic immunity, replied Mr. Hilal: "I want to help Turkish justice by illuminating certain things."

In the opening two sessions of the trial last month, the defendants all said their pre-trial confessions of involvement in the

murder were extracted under torture.

The prosecution produced a medical report saying the defendants didn't receive any ill treatment. But the defence produced a separate medical report that said they carried signs of beating on their bodies.

During the hearing two weeks ago, Shaban appeared as a prosecution witness and testified that some of the defendants met in a house he shared with Palestinian friends and discussed plans to kill someone. The person was not named.

Shaban also stated that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative here, Abu Firas, threatened to kill him if he would not withdraw his statement to police accusing the defendants.

## Maksoud: Israel wields veto power

(Continued from page 1)

"I don't want to sound excessively optimistic about this," Mr. Maksoud said. "But if there is an attempt to distance the United States from this instant responsiveness to Israeli objectives in the Middle East I think that would be helpful."

The Arab League official did not directly suggest that Israel originated the idea of seven U.S. arms shipments to Iran or played a role in establishing a fund.

But, Mr. Maksoud said, the strategic alliance between the

Shaban said there was an attempt against his life in September because of his knowledge of the conspiracy and he was now living at the police detention centre voluntarily.

The indictment says the Palestinian defendants and Shaban confessed to being members of the Abu Nidal organisation.

Three Palestinians, Bassem Al Ahmad, Naif Al Nadi and Sami Washah, are under arrest here and face the death penalty if convicted on charges of premeditated murder.

Another Palestinian, Nader Haboush, and the Turk, Ali Kent, also are in custody facing 20 years imprisonment if convicted on charges of being accessory to murder.

United States and Israel provides for sharing of intelligence and creates "a degree of instant response" by Washington to Israeli initiatives.

Overall, he said, "there has been, for all intents and purposes, an Israeli veto over U.S. policy in the Middle East."

Turning to a projected trip to the Middle East next month by Assistant Secretary of State Richard W. Murphy, the Arab official said he hoped "this will not again be a motion that is a substitute for movement."

## U.N. secretary general underlines basic right of shelter on eve of Year of Shelter for the Homeless

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations has designated 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH). The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) has worked, in cooperation with national governments and concerned organisations all over the world, to make this observance of this year a truly consequential event for the millions of human beings all over the world who lack decent living conditions.

On the eve of the new year, Habitat published the following message from Dr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations secretary general:

"It gives me great pleasure, on this first day of 1987, to inaugurate the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Shelter is a basic human right and necessity. The conditions in which people live determine to a great extent their health, well-being and ability to engage in gainful occupation, to pursue self-improvement through education and recreation and, in consequence, to attain a better standard of living. As an estimated one-in-five of the inhabitants of our world lack decent shelter, and several million of our fellow human beings lack shelter of any kind, it has been a timely decision to devote 1987 to the aim of providing shelter for the homeless. This is an important undertaking in the larger process of bettering the condition of humanity to which the United Nations has dedicated itself."

"The problem of shelter, if unsolved, poses a threat, both immediate and long-term, to the welfare of peoples and the development prospects of the international community as a whole. Homelessness and poor housing conditions, though most



Javier Perez de Cuellar

appalling in the bustling urban centres of the developing countries, constitute a global problem affecting rich and poor countries alike. The declaration of the year reflects the determination of governments to take effective measures, individually and collectively, to combat the threat. Many governments, international organisations and non-governmental organisations have already adopted new programmes and strategies focusing on the shelter needs of the poor and disadvantaged. These need to be carried forward with vigour and commitment for the achievement of our ultimate goal of decent shelter for all."

"In most of the developing countries, we see the twin forces of rapid population growth and increasing urban poverty converging into a crisis which may assume monumental proportions in the coming decades. Only action now, concerted, bold and imaginative, can help relieve the current pressure and avert the future shock."

"I would, therefore, appeal to governments to give the necessary priority to providing shelter and

basic services to those who lack them. I would also like to call on all United Nations agencies, bilateral and multilateral financial institutions to support the efforts of governments in this behalf, invite the non-governmental organisations, the private sector, professional bodies and the wider community to mobilise assets and support for shelter programmes at the national and local levels.

"Let us all bear in mind that society is judged not so much the standards attained by its affluent and privileged members as by the quality of life which, able to assure for its weakest citizens."

"As we move towards closing years of the twentieth century, we cannot fail to bear in mind that our actions today or inaction will determine living conditions in the next century."

"With the start of the Year of Shelter for the Homeless, we are beginning a journey whose destination is yet distant. Much has been, or is being accomplished, but the path persists glaringly."

According to a letter issued, the executive director of Habitat estimated 1,000 million of the world living in unfit shelter.

Stressing the success of a World Habitat Day held in October, executive director emphasised that nations must not only observe the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, but must take action.

"What remains is to translate this (goodwill) into tangible action to improve the shelter conditions of the poor. The International Year of Shelter for the Homeless provides a most appropriate framework to undertake action. Let us seize the time."

## 'Kimche suggested funds diversion'

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Kimche as saying he first heard of the diversion of money when he read about it in newspapers.

"The whole thing is ridiculous. If that is what Oliver North testified to, then he is an unmitigated liar," the newspaper quoted Mr. Kimche as saying.

Mr. Kimche said he had met Col. North twice, once in connection with arms sales to Iran, but the subject of diverting funds to Nicaragua never came up.

According to the Times, Mr. Kimche told Col. North there were three options for the arms deal and diversion of proceeds.

Mr. Kimche said money for the arms deal could come from U.S. funds or from foreign aid to Israel — both of which would violate a congressional ban on aid to the rebels — or from increasing the price of weapons sold to Iran and sending the proceeds to the rebels, the Times said.

## Rebels say Tehran base set ablaze

(Continued from page 1)

The Mujahadeen report comes three days after a report by Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency that a consignment of ammunition "accidentally" detonated while being transported inside a garrison compound. It said a number of people were wounded. It did not name the garrison.

The Mujahadeen later said that 500 militants had been killed or wounded at the Tehran headquarters of the Revolutionary Guards Corps.

The guards corps was formed in 1979 in the early days of the revolution as a paramilitary force whose loyalty to supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini was unchallengeable.

The Mujahadeen statement Tuesday said that according to reliable reports from Iran, the barracks was set ablaze by "the patriotic and popular soldiers and personnel of the armed forces in an act of protest against the

Khomeini regime's suppression and belligerent policies."

It did not elaborate or say how many army personnel were responsible for the explosion. But sources close to the government told the AP that hundreds of people have been arrested in Iran in connection with a leaflet campaign a few months ago, protesting the "destruction of the army."

The arrests came in the midst of a two-year controversy over proposal by the clergy-led government to beef up the Revolutionary Guards and gradually dissolve the army.

One leaflet said: "There is plot to destroy the army and its destruction will harm the revolution." It urged soldiers "rise" to foil the plot.

Some of the top officials arrested were charged with leaking classified documents. These included Colonel Mohammad Mehdi Karubi, head of the army's intelligence and counter-intelligence.

## TV & RADIO

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

**PROGRAMME ONE**  
15:00... Koran  
15:15... Cartoons  
16:10... Children's programme  
16:35... Scientific programme  
17:00... Thrill Maker Sports  
17:30... Morning Show  
18:00... A tale of two cities  
18:30... Arabic series  
19:20... Local programme  
20:00... News in Arabic  
20:30... Message from Cairo  
20:40... Documentary on the Ministry of Education  
20:50... Arabic series  
21:30... Arabic songs: Najwa Roumi  
22:00... News in Arabic  
23:15... Arabic film

### PROGRAMME TWO

18:00... Des chiffres et des lettres  
18:30... Catherine  
19:00... News in French  
19:15... Aujourd'hui en Jordanie  
19:30... News in Hebrew  
19:45... Varieties  
20:00... News in Arabic  
20:30... Three's Company  
21:30... Brazilfarrar  
22:00... News in English  
22:15... Feature film

### RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM

partly on 9560 KHz. SW

Tel. 77411-19

07:00... Light Music  
07:30... Newsdesk  
08:00... Morning Show  
08:30... News Summary  
08:45... Morning Show Contd.  
09:00... Country Music  
09:30... News Summary  
09:45... Guide to the Galaxy  
10:00... Pop Session  
10:30... News Summary  
10:45... Top Session  
11:00... News Bulletin  
11:30... Instrumental  
11:45... Your Health  
12:00... Concert Hour  
12:30... News Summary  
12:45... Instrumental  
13:00... Old Favorites  
13:30... Jordan Weekly  
13:45... Top Session  
14:00... News Summary  
14:15... Women in Music Masters and Music  
14:30... News Desk  
14:45... Date with a Star  
15:00... Evening Show

### 21:00... News Summary

21:00... Evening Show Contd.  
21:15... News Summary  
22:00... Evening Show Continued  
23:00... News Summary  
23:05... Evening Show Continued  
23:15... News Headlines  
24:00... Close Down

### BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1233 KHz.

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 No Laughing Matter 06:40 Radio 4000  
Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 Report on Religion 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Radio 4000 The Thomas No Laughing Matter 08:15 World News 08:30 24 Hours: News Summary 08:30 Development '86 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 Classical Record Review 10:30 Just a Minute 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News: Look Ahead 11:45 Patrick Marry's Music Box 12:00 News Summary: Omnibus 12:30 Jazz Score 13:00 World News 13:09 News About Britain 13:15 No Laughing Matter 13:30 The Thomas the Tank Engine 14:00 Radio Newsdesk 14:15 Masterpiece in Nature 14:25 The Farming World 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Development '86 15:45 Treat and Baritone 16:00 News Summary: Outlook 16:45 Report on Religion 17:00 Radio 4000 17:15 A Fun for the Road 17:30 Two Cheers for 1986 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Rock Salad 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:09 A Letter from Wales 19:15 Body Talk 19:30 New Ideas 19:40 Book Choice

### VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 Hz.

05:00 News 05:10 Newsline 05:30 VOA Morning 06:00 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning 09:45 News Summary 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 News USA 18:00 News 18:10 Newsline 18:30 Special English News & Features 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 Magazine Show 20:00 News 20:10 Focus 20:30 Special English News & Features 21:00 News 21:10 Newsline 21:30 News USA 22:00 News 22:10 Newsline 22:30 Special English News & Features 23:00 News 23:10 Newsline 23:30 World Report

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### TODAY'S EVENTS

#### EXHIBITIONS

\* An exhibition of architectural paintings of Iraq Al Amir by Francois Larche and Jean-Pierre Lange at the Arab Cultural Centre, Royal Centre, Jabel Amman (until Jan. 10).

\* A painting exhibition entitled: "On the Banks of Jordan" at the Jordan National Centre Library, Jabel Amman (until Jan. 23).

\* An exhibition of oil paintings from the Soviet Republic of Armenia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Jan. 2).

\* An exhibition of documentary photos of old Jordanian personalities at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 31).

\* An exhibition of Czechoslovakian paintings at Yammouk University (until Dec. 31).

\* An exhibition of paintings by Moroccan artist Mehdi Oubaj at the Alia Art Gallery, Jabel Amman, First Circle (until Jan. 7).

#### CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 6610267  
American Centre Library, 644371  
American Centre Library, 641520  
British Council, 6361478  
French Cultural Centre, 637009  
Goethe Institute, 641993  
Soviet Cultural Centre, 642030  
Spanish Cultural Centre, 624049  
Turkish Cultural Centre, 639777  
Haya Arts Centre, 6678106  
Hizbun Youth City, 641793  
Y.W.C.A., 644251  
Yammouk University, 637111  
University of Jordan Library, 843555

#### MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old, also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m., Year-round. Tel. 651760.  
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qaf (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays) 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Closed Tuesdays.

### CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 624590.  
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 661757.  
Terra Sancta Church (Roman Catholic), Jabel Amman, Tel. 661757.  
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.  
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, Tel. 678906.  
Armenian Catholic Church Abdali, Tel. 775261.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Abdali, Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.  
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Smeisani, Tel. 677554.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabel Amman, 6th Circle (Rev. N. Smir), Tel. 811295.  
Reformed Congregation (International, Inter-denominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabel Amman, Tel. 606974.

Prayer Times  
05:10... Fajr  
05:38... Sunrise  
12:42... Dhuhr  
14:22... Asr  
16:40... Maghrib  
18:07... Isha

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## FOR THE TRAVELLER

### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia International Airport at the Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. (08) 322005, where it should always be verified.

#### ARRIVALS

##### ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS

(Terminal 1)

09:00... Aqaba (RJ)  
09:30... Sam's (IY)  
09:30... Damascus (RJ)  
10:00... Cairo (RJ)  
10:3



## Iraqi ambassador denies Khomeini was expelled

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN—Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ghafel Hussein Tuesday delivered a lecture on the Iran-Iraq war in which he reiterated his country's commitment to honour all international peace bids aimed at curbing bloodshed on the warfront.

In his lecture, presented at the World Affairs Council (WAC), the Iraqi ambassador charged that Iran's continued rejection of international peace calls was further reinforced by "Zionism and imperialism."

The provision of weaponry to Iran by "the imperialist states and the Zionist states, as well as black market brokers" has further fuelled the flames of war by empowering the Persian state's military position. Mr. Hussein said in his lecture, which was attended by senior Jordanian officials and members of the diplomatic corps in Amman.

Former Minister of Culture Taher Hikmat acted as a moderator during the 45-minute lecture, and Dr. Kamel Abu Jabr, WAC member presented chronological review of Iran-Iraq relations from the prehistoric era to the present. Dr. Kamel

reviewed in details the Iranian hostility and aggression against Iraq over the years, and the Persian state's alliance with Israel and the Western world.

In his lecture, the Iraqi ambassador tried to refute the previous assumption that the Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini was politically intimidated and that he was subsequently forced out from Iraq, his exile land prior to leaving for Paris, France.

During his stay in Iraq, the current Iranian leader was well treated, even to the extent Iran-Iraq relations during the Shah period were deeply affected, the ambassador asserted.

However, he added, Khomeini engaged in an anti-Shah campaign, which violated Iran-Iraq's Algeria agreement of 1975. To tone Iran's voice of protest down, Khomeini was politely requested, through the Iraqi interior minister, to reduce his activities in Iraq. Mr. Hussein said. Khomeini subsequently left Iraq.

To show how sincere Iraq was in its relations with Iran following the Khomeini revolution, the then President late Ahmad Bakr sent a cable of congratulations to Khomeini to which his reply was cold, the ambassador said.



Her Majesty Queen Noor cuts ribbon to inaugurate the architectural week sponsored by the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA). The ceremony was held at the Professional Association Complex in Amman on Tuesday. (Petra photo)

## Queen inaugurates architectural week

AMMAN (Petra)—Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday inaugurated the fourth architectural week organised by the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) at the Professional Association complex in Amman. She inspected the various items on display and heard a briefing on architectural projects and designs.

At the outset of the ceremony, JEA President Ibrahim Abu Ayyash made a speech thanking the Queen for patronising the event and said the Queen's presence reflects her interest in the development of the construction business in the city of Amman.

In his speech Mr. Abu Ayyash referred to architecture and construction in the occupied Arab

territory, where he said the Israeli authorities have been intent on implementing plans for obliterating the Arab identity and Islamic culture. Mr. Abu Ayyash also reviewed the activities which will be held during the week.

The exhibition displays samples of architectural designs and projects by local architects from various government departments. Amman Municipality, engineering offices and the University of Jordan.

The Queen inspected projects presented by architects as their contribution in a competition organised by JEA and Amman Municipality for the best architectural design of a yard that will be built next to the Palace of Justice, downtown Amman.

The week's activities include, among other things, a seminar on architecture to be held on Saturday under the title "Amman... the city and the citizen." The participants will discuss working papers dealing with the development of Greater Amman, and the role of the Jordanian architects in society, in addition to problems encountered by Amman Municipality in providing services to the city's residents.

The opening ceremony was attended by Minister of Public Works Mamdouh Al Hawamdch, Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh, senior JEA officials, as well as the wife of the prime minister.

## Educational system to be overhauled

ZARQA (Petra)—The Ministry of Education is in the process of overhauling the whole educational system in the country; the school textbooks are at the centre of this process because the aim is to find out whether these are serving their intended purpose. Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi said here Tuesday.

Speaking at a meeting for directors of education, principals of schools, and educational supervisors in Zarqa region, the minister said that intensive studies are underway to determine the effectiveness of the secondary education system, and the vocational training. These studies are prior to laying down a more suitable educational structure that can meet the requirements and the demands of all citizens and provide more proper training and skills for the students.

Referring to the educational situation in Zarqa, the minister noted that the overcrowded city has created new educational circumstances for the Ministry of Education, which has yet to draw up specific plans to deal with

problems and difficulties that have been emerging there.

The Ministry of Education is confronted with a situation where approximately 70 per cent of the male schools in Zarqa and 40 per cent of female schools in the city run two shifts a day in view of the great number of students they have to accommodate, the minister pointed out. He said that this has created one of the most difficult problems for the Ministry of Education for which urgent and speedy solutions should be found.

The Ministry of Education is convinced that financial benefits for all teachers and officials of the ministry should be commensurate with their qualifications. Mr. Hindawi said. He also said that the ministry is now re-examining its previous decision to allow the Tawjihi students to decide on the subjects for their examinations.

Addressing the meeting held at the Comprehensive School for Boys in Zarqa was Dr. Saud Mahmoud, director of education in the Zarqa Governorate. He outlined the educational situation in the region and said that six

additional schools were established in Zarqa during 1986 at a cost of JD 2.91 million. He said that 15 additional ones are being built at the cost of JD 5.373 million with the purpose of meeting the demand for education and with a view to phasing out the two shift school system in the city.

The Ministry of Education is carrying out school projects in Zarqa region in the course of implementing its five-year development plan, Mr. Mahmoud said. Later, the minister answered questions put to him at the meeting and visited Ruseifa Girls School complex.

## Enforcement of seat belt laws to be stepped up

By Sana Atiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Enforcement of the use of specified front seat belts on roads with speed limits in excess of 60 kilometres per hour (kmph) in the Kingdom will start on Jan. 1, 1987, according to Assistant Public Security Director for Traffic Affairs Brigadier Ahmad Abul Sa'ud.

Addressing a group of journalists on Tuesday, Brig. Abul Sa'ud said that a month-long awareness campaign will start at the beginning of the year on the use of front seat belts, in order to inform the public of the necessity and importance of seat belts and the penalties paid if citizens do not abide by the new traffic law.

The traffic law will be technically enforced at the beginning of February 1987, said Brig. Abul Sa'ud, and any driver or front-seat passenger found without a fastened seat belt on a road with a speed limit exceeding 60 kmph will be fined between JD 5 and JD 15. If the specified seat belts are not installed in the vehicle, another fine will be imposed on the driver.

When asked why this law should be enforced only on some roads, Brig. Abul Sa'ud replied that it takes a long time for a society to get used to doing something they are not used to doing. "However, we do encourage the public to always use their seat belts at all times and places. But, step by step, we will reach our goal: To convince people that the belts are necessary for their safety, and that they should eventually use them at

all times while in motion," he commented.

The brigadier also added that all cars, by law, must have head rests on both front seats. He said that no cars will be registered or licensed if these two requirements are not met.

This decision came, according to Brig. Abul Sa'ud, after local and international studies and research that proved that the number of injuries and deaths due to road accidents are 51 per cent less when seat belts are used.

A representative of the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents, Mr. Nizar Abedi, explained the consequences of the impact of a car moving at 50 kmph. "Three tonnes of weight will push a 75 kilogramme man forward instantly on an impact, and a proper seat belt prevents the man from seriously injuring himself," he stated.

The Public Security Department plans to use the media as a means to promote the use of seat belts, and calls on all syndicates, departments, societies, insurance companies, and citizens to help in the awareness campaign.

When a reporter commented that the general public feels that paying traffic fines cost too much, Brig. Abul Sa'ud pointed out that the number of injuries and deaths — caused by road accidents because no seat belts were used — costs the country much more time and money. "It is a terrible waste of time, and a social and economic burden on Jordan. If one is badly injured or dies, productivity of the individuals who are related to the victim is weakened, and a lot of money is spent on funerals or hospitals. So, it is much cheaper to pay a fine in order to learn to use seat belts and be safe," he stressed.

The brigadier added that the use of seat belts is not a new thing in the world and that it does not take much time to fasten the belts. "It takes longer to take out a cigarette and light it," he said as an example. He continued by saying that the interest of the traffic department is to reduce the number of serious injuries and deaths caused by neglecting to fasten their belts, and to reach a point where this serious problem can be stopped once and for all.

The concerned authorities are optimistic that they will reach this goal. According to the department's statistics, in 1975, there were 50 deaths in road accidents; in 1980, 35 deaths; and in 1983, 21 deaths. "We expect the number of deaths will go down in 1987. But this will not happen until there is an awareness within the society, which we will do our utmost to work on," concluded Brig. Abul Sa'ud.



Press conference held by the Public Security Department (PSD) on Tuesday, announcing the enforcement of seat belt regulations at the beginning of next year

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Haj Hassan meets Chinese ambassador

AMMAN (Petra)—China's ambassador to Jordan, Chang Jin, met with minister of labour and social development here Wednesday to discuss Jordanian-Chinese cooperation in labour related affairs. The ambassador also discussed with Mr. Haj Hassan subjects on the agenda of the International Labour Conference to be held in Geneva in June 1987. Jordan has nominated Mr. Haj Hassan to act as chairman of the conference. Meanwhile, the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions has sent memoranda to all labour unions in the Arab world requesting them to support the nomination of the minister to the conference's chairmanship which will be decided in the coming conference in June.

### Japan to contribute \$7.5 m to UNRWA

AMMAN (Petra)—Japan had decided to contribute \$7.5 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to finance the purchase of flour for Palestinian refugees, according to UNRWA office here. It said that the flour contribution will be in addition to Japan's annual financial contribution for the agency.

### Iraq to buy 50m eggs from Jordan

AMMAN (Petra)—The Jordanian society for the production and marketing of eggs is to sell 50 million eggs to Iraq in the first half of the coming year, according to a report in Sawt Al Shaab newspaper. It said that the shipment will be in implementation of a protocol signed with the Iraqi government. The society's president Suleiman Irteimeh was quoted to have made the announcement upon his return to Amman from a visit to Baghdad at the head of a delegation. Mr. Irteimeh is to speak at a press conference today, Wednesday to announce the start of a campaign for urging citizens to increase their consumption of eggs because the country has a big surplus of this commodity.

## King renews call

(Continued from page 1)

He added that he did not have the expertise "to say who is right and wrong, but I will say deep within each is a need for roots."

"All people have the right to self-determination and their voice must be heard, and I think an international forum would give them that opportunity," said the cardinal.

The archbishop noted that in addressing the Palestinian problem, "I do not know if (a solution) would mean a state, but human rights must be addressed. Peace must go with justice and each side must yield some of its rights in order to benefit all." "If we ignore the rights of Palestinians to self-determination and ignore the Palestinians in refugee camps, then we have ignored the real issue at stake," he said.

Summing up his talks in Jordan, the cardinal said he was impressed with his meetings with the King and others. "Here you do not hear talks of driving Israel into the sea," he said. "All people here want to live in peace. Surely Israel also wants to live in peace."

The cardinal referred to the controversy surrounding his trip to Israel. "I am trying to be a friend to the Palestinians and all Arabs and the Israelis. I am in a city with a lot of Jews who were anxious for me to go."

Reports said on Tuesday that several prominent Jewish leaders in New York had called on the cardinal to cancel his trip to Israel because of his refusal to meet Israeli leaders in their offices in occupied Jerusalem.

"I have expressed my apologies and regrets to the Israelis as this is an embarrassment to them, but the Israeli government has not told me not to come," said the cardinal. He said his agreement with the Israeli government was that "when I get to Israel we will schedule what we can. It is inappropriate to discuss who and when now."

Although the Vatican has no formal ties with Israel, the cardinal told JTV, "informal

contacts have taken place and the Vatican has said that Israel can defend its borders." Talking to reporters earlier, he said he believed that "there is an understandable need for a strong Israel."

It is the unsettled dispute over Jerusalem which makes the Holy City a "different matter," he said. Differences between the Vatican and the Jewish state date back to the 1948 U.N. proposal to give Jerusalem the status of an international city. The proposal, which was never implemented, would have given the Holy See considerable control over holy places in Jerusalem.

Cardinal O'Connor said Tuesday that it was imperative that people of all faiths should have equal access to the holy places of their respective faiths in Jerusalem.

The King's meeting with Cardinal O'Connor was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, Jordan's United Nations Ambassador Abdullah Salah, and Monsignor Raouf Najjar, head of the Roman Catholic Church in Amman.

Earlier, Mr. Rifai conferred in his office with Cardinal O'Connor. Petra said Mr. Rifai and the cardinal reviewed the developments in the region and efforts for peace.

Mr. Rifai outlined Jordan's efforts under King Hussein's leadership for a durable peace that could guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories, Petra said.

The cardinal also met with Foreign Minister Masri to discuss Middle East issues.

Later the cardinal visited the Home of Peace, an institution run by the "Missionaries of Charity" headed by Mother Teresa.

## PSD issues regulations on jewellery business

AMMAN (Petra)—The Public Security Department (PSD) has issued a set of regulations requiring citizens wishing to sell any piece of jewellery to obtain prior approval from the nearest police station, which would take detailed specifications of the jewellery to be sold.

According to the new regulations, police stations are to open special registers in which details about the type, the amount of jewellery to be sold, the date of the transaction and the names and addresses of owners are to be recorded.

The regulations state that citizens wishing to start a jewellery business or open a jewellery store should acquire prior approval

from the PSD criminal investigation department.

Moreover, according to the new regulations, jewellers should open a register which should include all details of the items of jewellery they deal with, the types and description of items they buy from citizens, as well as the left hand thumb print of customers selling jewellery pieces to them.

The jewellers are also required to submit monthly and weekly reports to police departments in their region giving particulars about the gold and other jewellery bought from people, their names and addresses.

The regulations which will go into effect on Jan. 1, 1987.

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## Peres, Rabin see case of killing 2 Arabs as 'closed'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Tuesday the scandal following the 1984 killing of two Arab bus hijackers had ended with a report clearing Israeli leader from criminal responsibility for the deaths.

In his first comment on the Justice Ministry report released Monday, Peres told reporters in a Jerusalem hotel: "I accept the results. Nothing was found and we do not have to create anything."

Asked if the Shin Bet security agency scandal which dragged on for nearly three years had come to its conclusion, the Labour leader replied: "I think so."

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin also said he saw "the case as closed."

Israeli Attorney-General Yosef Harish Monday cleared Israeli leaders, mainly Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, of criminal involvement in the killings of the captured bus hijackers and a subsequent cover-up of how they died. He said no one would stand trial in the case.

"Shamir did not know about or sanction the killings and had no knowledge about a later cover-up," Harish said.

Shamir was prime minister and responsible for the activities of Shin Bet, Israel's internal security agency, when two Palestinians hijacked a civilian bus to occupied Gaza in April 1984.

A recent police investigation, on which the ministry's report was based, and two previous inquiries found that interrogators beat the captured gunmen to death. Two other hijackers were killed when Israeli troops stormed the bus.

"The political echelon—anyway as far as it applies to me—was not

involved in the affair. I acted in all innocence, in good conscience, and I have no need to justify myself or explain," Peres said.

Questions arose during the inquiries whether Shamir knew about the Shin Bet cover-up and if he informed Peres about it when he handed over power to Labour Party leader after 1984 general elections.

The leaders swapped posts again last October under a coalition power-sharing agreement.

Members of Shamir's Likud Bloc demanded apologies from Labour parliamentarians who accused the hardline premier of criminal involvement in the scandal.

Likud parliamentarian Ronnie Milo told state television: "(Shamir) knew the truth and knew that there was no basis to the accusations against him, but he restrained himself and absorbed the blame out of concern for security."

"I think this strengthens the demand from those who participated in the exploit to apologise and say 'we were wrong,'" Milo said.

Israel will increase supervision of Shin Bet secret agents, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

Hadashot newspaper reported that the Shin Bet internal security service would no longer be supervised only by the prime minister but also by the defence and foreign ministers.

The decision was based on recommendations of a three-member panel appointed in August by Peres to examine the relationship between the Shin Bet and the government, the report said, citing an unidentified senior government official.

Israeli editorials said Tuesday that Peres and Shamir should still be held publicly accountable because they failed to act upon initial information about a possible cover-up.

Legal experts criticised the attorney general's conclusions.

They "did not debate the question of the form of supervision and the efficiency of such supervision by the prime minister and the political echelon over the Shin Bet," Amos Schapira, former dean of the Tel Aviv University Law School, told Yediot Aharonot.

Several editorials said that while Shamir and Peres were cleared of any criminal wrongdoing, they were still guilty of failing to take action against the Shin Bet once the affair was brought to their attention.

"Even though they acted in good faith, one cannot say they acted wisely," the conservative Maariv wrote. "We are talking about those who... preferred to think this was all an intrigue against Abraham Shalom and out of this unfounded belief neglected to check the facts."

And the independent daily Haaretz editorialised that "even though the attorney general's team failed to confirm suspicions of Shamir's criminal responsibility, his political responsibility is not null and void... the political echelon cannot wash its hands of the affair."

## Sudanese troops kill 22 injured rebels

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Government troops killed 22 rebels as they lay wounded after an attack on a convoy of Nile barges because they were unable to be evacuated for medical help, an army spokesman says.

Additionally, the spokesman told the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) on Monday that soldiers burned villages supporting the attackers because such violence is justified to combat the guerrillas' "dirty means" of warfare.

SUNA quoted the spokesman as saying 68 rebels, five government soldiers, a policeman and three civilians — a man, woman and her 3-year-old child — died during and after the ambush.

He said a convoy of 10 barges and their towing vessels, carrying 11,000 civilians, 557 troops and seven officers, was ambushed in the Upper Nile region of southern Sudan. He gave no date for the attack other than that it happened this month, but the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) claimed in a clandestine mid-December broadcast that its fighters had ambushed and sunk four steamers on Dec. 14.

But the spokesman said all units of the convoy arrived last Saturday in Kosti, 280 kilometres south of Khartoum, after a trip that took two weeks instead of the usual three days.

SUNA said the spokesman, who was not identified, made the statements to reporters in Kosti. He said 22 of the 68 rebel dead were wounded in the battle but were slain by government troops "according to the legal military manner... because we were not able to evacuate them."

It was unclear from the report whether the rebels were too seriously wounded to be transported or the army lacked the means to transport them.

The leader of the rebel band died in the battle, the spokesman said, and army troops found "important documents" on him including names of southerners who aided the rebels.

He said troops set fire to all the villages from which the attacks were launched. This was done, he said, because the southern rebellion "is a guerrilla war, in addition to (the rebels') dirty means which justifies using violence with them in all circumstances."

Rebels led by renegade Col. John Garang took up arms in 1983 against the government, then headed by Jaafar Numeiri.

Despite the fall of his military government in 1985 and the assumption of power in April 1986 by a civilian administration, Col. Garang's SPLA continued the fight to back up demands for economic and administrative reforms and an end to Islamic Law that Numeiri decreed in 1983.

Sudan's Muslim Arab majority in the north traditionally has dominated its Christian and animist minority in the south.

## Filipino officials leave for Jeddah peace talks with separatists

MANILA (R) — Government negotiators Tuesday left for Saudi Arabia for peace talks with Filipino Muslim separatists who have fought for an independent state in the southern Philippines for 14 years.

A four-man team headed by National Affairs Minister Aquilino Pimentel will hold preliminary talks with the rebels from Jan. 1-3 in Jeddah, the base of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), government officials said.

The 46-member OIC has mediated in previous talks between the government and Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) of Nur Misuari, whose struggle has cost an estimated 50,000 lives.

Government negotiator Agapito "Butz" Aquino told reporters talks would initially be held by the government team and 20 MNLF officials, including Misuari, with the OIC possibly attending later stages as an observer.

Butz Aquino, the brother-in-law of President Corason Aquino, said Manila would offer self-rule without secession.

The government agreed a truce last September with Misuari and his estimated 10,000 armed followers. A 60-day ceasefire in fighting between the government and Communist rebels also came into effect on Dec. 10.

Manila has ruled out independence for southern Mindanao Island, the main area of Muslim separatist activity, and surrounding islands.

"Dissemination of the republic is not negotiable. We are prepared for a political settlement in especially those areas predominantly Muslim," Mrs. Aquino said.

Mrs. Aquino said that Misuari, head of the largest of several Muslim rebel groups, still advocated secession.

Misuari lived for a period in

Jeddah in self-imposed exile during the rule of former President Ferdinand Marcos.

Mrs. Aquino said other Filipino Muslims leaders were invited to the talks, but he did not know if they would accept.

The Philippines is overwhelmingly Christian but Muslims outnumber Christians in some southern areas.

The government estimates the secessionist war, which was at its height between 1972-1976, killed 50,000 people. Mrs. Aquino said the true number might be more—possibly 200,000.

Presidential spokesman Teodoro Benigno said the government wanted future talks held in the Philippines. "We don't want to internationalise the talks," he told reporters.

Mrs. Aquino said he welcomed the OIC as an observer to the talks because it might be able to unite the warring Muslim factions, but he added that he did not want it to mediate.

## Mugabe, Kaunda hold border talks

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe and Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda held one-day talks at their border Tuesday, apparently to decide on a strategy for sanctions against South Africa.

Government officials at the border post of Lake Kariba were tight-lipped on the discussions of the two leaders, the region's most vocal critics of South Africa's race segregation laws.

But political analysts in Harare, Zimbabwe's capital, said that Mr. Mugabe and Mr. Kaunda were likely to decide when they would impose limited sanctions on Pretoria as part of international moves to end apartheid.

"It's unlikely that the two men will discuss anything but the

promised sanctions package," one analyst told Reuters.

"This decision has been long overdue, especially now that much of the international community has started imposing sanctions on South Africa."

The two leaders committed themselves to a Commonwealth package of sanctions last August, requiring them to sever air links with South Africa and halt trade in such goods as steel and fruit products.

Both Mr. Kaunda and Mr. Mugabe have said they will implement some of the measures before the end of this year.

But the two governments have stressed that their action would be taken only if it was backed by a global trade embargo, especially

by the United States, Britain, Japan, West Germany and France — South Africa's largest foreign investors.

Tuesday's talks came on the heels of a meeting in the Zambian capital of Lusaka on Dec. 21 by leaders of southern Africa's six-nation frontline group, which includes Zimbabwe and Zambia.

The analysts said the sanctions issue had apparently been on the agenda of that conference, which broke up abruptly when Mr. Kaunda's 30-year-old son Masuzo died after a long illness.

Both Zambia and Zimbabwe, like fellow frontline members Botswana and Mozambique, are heavily dependent on trade with South Africa as well as on its transport routes.

## Iran not to send top team for OIC summit

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran said Monday it does not plan to send a ranking delegation to the Islamic summit conference in Kuwait on Jan. 26 because the Gulf country supports Iraq in the 6-year-old Gulf war.

Tehran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, said the Iranian position was conveyed to Shari'uddin Pirzadeh, secretary-general of the 46-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), during meetings in Tehran with President Ali Khamenei and Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

But the two officials did not completely rule that an Iranian

delegation would attend the conference, IRNA said.

Mr. Pirzadeh flew to Tehran at the weekend in a bid to persuade the Iranians to send a high-level delegation to the conference, at which the Gulf war is expected to be a major topic.

The OIC chief of Arab leaders had expressed hopes the summit would provide an opportunity for the two warring Gulf nations to resolve their differences.

IRNA quoted Mr. Khamenei as telling Mr. Pirzadeh the meeting should be held "in a country not bordering a war zone."

"The country hosting the summit should support right and justice and observe

neutrality," he said.

IRNA reported that Mr. Velayati told Mr. Pirzadeh: "If you think Kuwait can compensate for its past mistakes and adopt a neutral stance, we will take into consideration the level of Iran's participation at the conference, if any."

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have sent some \$35 billion in aid to Iraq since the war with Iran broke out in September 1980.

The two countries also have shipped an average of 320,000 barrels of crude oil a day to Iraq's contract customers to help Baghdad, whose economy has been badly battered by the conflict.

## Families of Challenger victims settle claims

WASHINGTON (R) — Families of four of the seven crew members killed in the Challenger shuttle accident agreed to out-of-court settlements providing "adequate financial security," the Justice Department has said.

Government sources said the settlements by families of mission Commander Francis (Dick) Scobee, mission specialist Ellison S. Onizuka, payload specialist Gregory Jarvis and schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe were for a minimum of \$750,000 each spread over a number of years.

Justice Department spokesman Terry Eastland said in a statement that at the request of the families, the amounts and terms of the agreements would be kept confidential.

Eastland said Morton Thiokol, manufacturer of the solid rocket booster which failed seconds after the Challenger launch of Jan. 28,

would make "a substantial contribution" to the settlements.

The department declined comment on the families of the others killed in the accident, pilot Michael Smith and astronaut Judith Resnik and Ronald McNair.

Smith's widow, Jane, was the only relative to criticise the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) publicly over the accident.

She has claimed \$15 million in compensation plus \$100,000 for personal injury in the few seconds preceding the explosion when she alleges her husband knew of his impending death.

Smith said the findings of the presidential commission which investigated the accident showed NASA had "shockingly sparse concern for human life" and had made "incredibly terrible judgments."

NASA's liability under law is limited to \$25,000 in most cases. If the space agency rejects Smith's claim for compensation, her lawyers can challenge the decision in court.

In the only other similar case, the 1967 launch pad fire in which three astronauts died, the widow of mission Commander Virgil Grissom waited four years before filing a lawsuit.

She settled out of court with rocket builder North American Rockwell for \$350,000. The manufacturer also paid \$150,000 each to the families of the two other crew members.

The commission report released last June blamed the shuttle accident on failure of a joint in the right-side solid rocket booster. It said NASA and Morton Thiokol failed to act on warnings that the design of the seals for the joints posed a serious risk.

## Chad rebels announce new leadership

LONDON (Agencies) — A radio station supporting Chadian guerrillas announced the formation of a new 13-member cabinet for the Libyan-backed rebel Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT).

Radio Bardai, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), said Monday night GUNT leader Acheikh Ibn Oumar, who replaced Goukouni Oueddei as president in a major shake-up of the group in November, would continue to head the organisation.

The announcement came amid reports of heavy fighting in northern Chad between Libyan troops and guerrillas loyal to Oueddei, who now supports the Chadian government in N'Djamena.

French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac is due in Gabon for talks with regional leaders on the fighting in northern Chad.

Among those named to the new GUNT cabinet by Radio Bardai, which is believed to be located in Libya, were Vice-President Nadjita Yonhombel Diar Soumail, Defence Minister Mohammad Goukouni Gue, Interior and Security Minister Houta Doudou Ali, External Relations Minister Facho Balaam and Information

Minister Gadinga Telero.

Other GUNT ministers named were Aboubakar Abderrahman, justice and labour, Mohammad Adai Abdul Karim, finance, economy and rural development, Hadjaro Adam Senoussi, public health, social affairs and refugees, Mohammad Salih Ahmat, secretary of state for external relations and cooperation.

The radio named Tendellah Yono as the new GUNT secretary-general and Doungina Rene as his assistant.

Meanwhile, pro-government guerrillas were still battling Libyan forces Monday, a day after the foreigners launched a new offensive on Zouar and Bardai in the harsh Tibesti Mountains in extreme northern Chad, a spokesman said.

French press reports said the Libyans had taken Zouar.

The Chadian embassy would not confirm or deny the reports and there was no word from the government of President Hissene Habre in N'Djamena, capital of the impoverished former French colony in north-central Africa.

Goukouni's Paris spokesman, Kaïlan Achmet, issued a statement saying the Libyans were checked Sunday night after

## launching a new offensive.

But fighting started up again Monday around Bardai and Zouar "with the total engagement of the Libyan army," Achmet said.

The statement said 65 Libyans were killed in the fighting Sunday night and two tanks seized along with seven jeeps, two equipped with cannons. It gave no report of guerrilla casualties.

The French news agency, Agence France-Presse (AFP), quoting unnamed sources in Paris, said the Libyans seized the administrative post of Zouar following fighting Sunday night and Monday morning. It said the loyalist forces retreated into the nearby mountains.

Zouar, under attack since Dec. 19, is about 60 kilometres from the border with Niger and straddles the road leading from the Libyan border to the oasis of Faya Largeau, the main town of northern Chad.

The government of Niger, affirming its "strict neutrality," denied reports its territory was being used by Chad government troops trying to join Goukouni's fighters.

It said that neither air nor land passage "would be accorded to any party in any conflict."

## U.S. concerned at reports of Turkish buildup in Cyprus

WASHINGTON (R) — A group of U.S. legislators is pressing the Reagan administration to determine whether U.S. military aid to Turkey has been diverted to Cyprus, aides said.

The legislators are concerned about reports of a Turkish military buildup on the divided Mediterranean island, which was invaded in 1974 by Turkish forces.

A house aide told Reuters that two separate letters were sent this month to Secretary of State George Shultz — one from a group of nine legislators, the other by Representative Gus Yatron, a Pennsylvania Democrat and member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. Shultz has not replied to either, the aide said.

But the State Department

earlier told Senator Arlen Specter, who made a similar query that it had expressed its concern to the Ankara government that it do nothing to alter the military balance on Cyprus.

The department said at the time, however, that it had no confirmation of reports of a Turkish military buildup.

The aide said that Mr. Yatron, and the signatories of the second letter, written by Armed Services Committee member Nicholas Mavroules, would attempt early in the new Congress to pass legislation prohibiting the diversion of any U.S. assistance to Turkey from being used on Cyprus.

He said the move would be attempted as a protective measure,

## Thatcher honours stars of Yes, Prime Minister

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Wednesday honoured the stars of a television programme that pokes fun at politics in general and her job in particular.

In her new year honours list, which also rewarded success in business, sport, the arts and politics, actors Paul Eddington and Nigel Hawthorne of the series Yes, Prime Minister were made Commanders of the Order of the British Empire (CBE).

The show, one of the most popular on British television, takes a wickedly funny look at the uneasy relationship between Prime Minister Jim Hacker, played by Eddington, and his wily cabinet secretary Sir Humphrey Appleby, played by Hawthorne.

Mrs. Thatcher, who once made a guest appearance in a special episode of its forerunner "Yes Minister," has confessed to seeing elements of truth in the programme.

As usual the prime minister rewarded business enterprise, which her Conservative government has tried to encourage.

Bernard Ashley, who with his late wife Laura founded an international fashion and design empire that has grown to more than 200 outlets in 30 years, received a knighthood.

Robert Evans, chief executive of British Gas, the former state utility sold to private investors this month for £525 billion (\$75 billion).

## S. African paper demands release of black reporter

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's influential Business Day newspaper Tuesday bitterly attacked the authorities for detaining one of its black reporters and demanded that he be released or put on trial.

Siphso Ngcobo, 32, has been held since Monday under section 29 of the Internal Security Act which permits indefinite detention without trial with no access to lawyers.

In a hard-hitting editorial, Business Day, South Africa's financial newspaper, said Ngcobo's detention under a "fascist provision of the law... emphasises and confirms the character of the regime that has seized him."

"Ngcobo's arrest is but one more reason among thousands for all democratic South Africans to come together in a determined campaign to end the long dark

night of nationalist misrule," it said, referring to the National Party's 38 years in power.

It said the effect of the detention would be to cut off another source of information about South African politics and to plunge white South Africans into deeper ignorance.

Ngcobo reported on South Africa's strife-torn black townships and had written about "People's courts," an alternative system of justice set up by black radicals.

Earlier this month, the government imposed new restrictions on the media, severely curtailing reporting of political unrest, dissent, strikes and boycotts.

Business Day demanded that Ngcobo be brought to trial or released, but said it did not have the faintest illusion that the authorities would heed its

demand.

Stephen Mulholland, managing director of South African Associated Newspapers which owns Business Day, also called for Ngcobo to be released immediately or be charged.

Detention without trial was a denial of a basic human right and an abuse of power by government, Mulholland said in a statement published in Business Day.

New powers given to education officials to stamp out unrest and unofficial "alternative education" in black schools were also criticised in the South African press.

In a front-page comment, the Sowetan newspaper said the new measures were a "monumental blunder" and urged the government to consider scrapping them before the new school term starts on Jan. 7.

"We are almost certain that these regulations will provoke what we fear most, a repetition of what has been going on in black schooling since 1976," the Sowetan, which has a large black readership, said.

Black schools have been a hotbed of opposition to government since student riots in 1976 and in the past three years have been disrupted by boycotts.

Under the regulations, Braam Fourie, the white official in charge of black education, can issue orders banning pupils from schools and barring any syllabus not approved by government.

Anti-apartheid groups had planned to give black pupils extra lessons challenging the official view of subjects like history and including the political teachings of black leaders.

## Chinese investigator says most students patriotic

PEKING (R) — The head of a task force probing China's wave of student protests said Tuesday that most demonstrators were patriotically showing their enthusiasm for reform and none had broken law.

He Dongchang, vice-minister of the State Education Commission and the task force chief, was speaking at a news conference after about 400 Peking Teachers' University students staged an early morning campus protest for democracy.

It was Peking's second night of protest running in defiance of a ban on unapproved demonstrations in parts of the capital.

Wallposters, outlawed since 1980, appeared on the campus calling for an end to one-party Communist rule and the launch of a multi-party system — illegal demands and some of the boldest made in nearly a month of nationwide college unrest.

"God allows young people to commit mistakes. When we were young, we did more or less similar things at times. This is our basic approach," He Dongchang told reporters.

He added that most of the 20,000 students who had taken part in student demonstrations had been patriotically showing their enthusiasm for reform, no students had been arrested and none had violated the constitution.

At least seven people, none of them students, are reported to have been held during the protests and he said the fate of anyone held would be decided by Public Security Departments.

His soft tone contrasted with the harsher line taken in the official press, which Tuesday kept up warnings to students to stay off the streets and not put up wallposters.

The Peking Daily said that the citizens of the capital would not allow people to destroy their unity and stability—a key slogan used by official media in attacks on the protests.

The vice-minister said it was too soon to say how the authorities would handle a rally rumoured for New Year's Day in a central Peking square where gatherings were banned under rules introduced a few days ago.

A stream of top Communist Party leaders, ministers, professors and workers have appeared on state television, repeating the theme that instability would threaten the unprecedented prosperity of the last seven years won after years of hardship and struggle.

It is illegal in China to challenge the leadership of the Communist Party and the supremacy of Socialism.

The People's Daily Tuesday carried a long article saying that democracy in China was superior to that in the United States, which it called a violent, unequal society run by a tiny minority of people backed by big business.

Some students have called for introduction of aspects of democracy in the United States, where thousands of students wish to go to study. Reporters from the Voice of America, widely listened to by students, have been given star treatment during the protests.

Students in at least ten campuses across China have taken part in the demonstrations.

On Monday, police detective Peter Fiorillo testified that Lester told him that he and two friends were taking Lester's girlfriend home from a party when three black men walked in front of the car and slurs were exchanged.

Lester and his friends were on their way back to the party when they saw the blacks at a pizzeria. "There are some niggers in the pizza parlor. Let's go kill them," Lester told Fiorillo, according to the detective.

Lester later said kill is "a terrible word" and that he meant "let's go fight them," Fiorillo testified.

Lester told him that up to a dozen youths got in three cars and caught up with the three blacks at the New Park Pizzeria, he said.

Lester told police the black men had knives and a gun, although he didn't see them. Police found no weapons on the victims. A plastic toy gun was found near Griffith's body on the highway.

Fiorillo said the white youths were armed with baseball bats and according to Lester: "They came towards us, and we started swinging."

Other officers testified that Ladone and Kern gave similar accounts.



# One year after signing 'historic pact' in Damascus chances for peace remain as distant as ever in Lebanon

By Lamis K. Andoni

DAMASCUS—A year after the signing of a peace pact among Lebanon's three major militias, the Christian, signatory to the accord says that the agreement, which foundered due to a strong Christian opposition, "could be amended but a dialogue has to be resumed first."

In a recent interview with the Jordan Times in Damascus, the ousted leader of the predominantly Christian "Lebanese Forces," Elie Hobeika, said: "The accord is by no means a Bible. It could be amended and modified but only after a renewed dialogue among all parties."

Hobeika, who enjoys Syrian backing, did not elaborate on possibilities of amending the accord but he strongly indicated in the two-hour interview that he was staunchly committed to the main principles of the agreement signed in Damascus on Dec. 28, 1985, and particularly its call for setting up a national coalition government with a secular character, a strong Lebanese-Syrian alliance and the disbanding of all militias in Lebanon.

Yet, it was his approval of such provisions, which essentially would put an end to the domination of the Beirut government by Lebanon's Maronite Christians and give more say to the Muslims, that had eventually led to his ouster from the leadership of the strongest Christian militia in the country. But for a brief two weeks, between his signing of the agreement and his ouster on Jan. 15, the 29-year-old Hobeika basked in the glory of being the Christian party to what was then described "a historic pact" to end the 10-year-old Lebanese strife.

The Syrian-brokered pact was the first and only agreement of its kind since the Lebanese war erupted in 1975. It carried the signatures of the three major militias in the country — the "Lebanese Forces," the Shiite Amal movement and the

believe in one united Lebanon could struggle jointly to reunite the country and set up a strong patriotic government."

"I no longer believe that the Maronite Christians can protect themselves in Lebanon through isolation or domination over other sects," he said. "This is a myth. Lebanese Christians can protect themselves only through dialogue and co-existence with other Lebanese sects."

According to Hobeika, all sects in Lebanon should struggle for a "united Arab Lebanon" which should be committed to any "united Arab strategy to confront Israel."

## Former alliance

Such statements are naturally expected from any leader, but they sounded more than strange from the man who was allied with Israel in Lebanon just four years ago. Hobeika's present views and stands, except his position vis-a-vis the Palestinians, constitute a sharp contrast with his background. He was brought up in a middle-class Maronite family and at the age of 13 he joined the Falangist Party, the strongest political party in Lebanon. The Falangists were given a privileged position over other Lebanese sects through their alliance with France which ensured their dominating status by incorporating a sectarian division of power, giving the Maronite-Christians the lion's share in running the newly independent country with a more than fifty per cent Muslims population.

When the civil war erupted, the young Hobeika fought with the Falangists against the Palestinians and Lebanese leftists and some Lebanese say that he participated in massacres against the Palestinians when he was still a teenager in 1976. By 1982, Hobeika gained the reputation of a tough fighter and well-known collaborator with Israel. Some reports even suggested that he was actually trained by the Israeli

WHILE I was waiting for Elie Hobeika, the ousted pro-Syrian leader of the mostly Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia, in the lobby of the Sheraton Hotel in Damascus, I could see leaders of the many Lebanese factions heading for the suit occupied by Libya's number two Major Abdul Salam Jalloud who was involved in lengthy discussions as part of mediation efforts to defuse the "camps war" in Beirut and South Lebanon. One of the last such leaders was George Hawi, chief of the Lebanese Communist Party, and I stopped him for a second to inquire after the fate of the negotiations. As Hawi was patiently explaining the situation, a Lebanese journalist drew my attention to the simple entry of Hobeika: simple in the sense that he had only one bodyguard while all other Lebanese factional leaders who preceded him into the hotel had large entourages of guards and advisers.

I could have mistaken him for an average Syrian-Lebanese youth dropping in at the Sheraton bar for a drink. Hobeika's face lit with a bright smile when he saw Hawi and the handsome, medium-built man wearing a fashionable grey sports jacket approached us.

If his appearance was surprising, much more astonishing was the way he started a casual chat with Hawi. It occurred to me how much the "friendly" conversation between Hobeika and Hawi, who were cracking jokes over Samir Geagea, the man who ousted Hobeika from the "Lebanese Forces" leadership, reflected the radical shift in alliances in the Lebanese arena. The two men in front of me were sworn enemies at one stage and, at the height of mutual hostility, had represented two extremely different directions in Lebanese politics. They were now standing on "common ground." After all they were in Damascus, which has become the common destination for the diverse factions within the "Lebanese nationalist movement."

Hobeika, who dramatically turned himself from a pro-Israeli sectarian militia leader into a right-wing revolutionary bent upon the task of founding a secular nationalist state in Lebanon, has been instrumental in changing the political landscape of his strife-torn country.

His most dramatic move came when he put his hand to a tripartite Syrian-brokered agreement in Damascus on Dec. 28, 1985, and emerged as one of the key leaders in Lebanon, only to be toppled from the "Lebanese Forces" leadership two weeks later.

Now, one year later, the agreement seems to be buried under the rubble of the hundreds of flattened houses in the inter-Christian fighting that ousted Hobeika or in the ashes of the burnt-out makeshift "homes" in Beirut's Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh camps, where Hobeika's ally, Amal militia leader Nabih Berri, is fighting the Palestinians.

Analysts differ on whether Hobeika still possesses what it takes, in terms of military and political power, to stage a comeback and realize his "dream of a united Lebanon." But as he stood there, in the lobby of the Damascus Sheraton Hotel, he appeared as confident as he could ever be. Minutes later, in a two-hour interview with the Jordan Times, he outlined his position and the dramatic transformation from an ally of the Israelis into a man favoured by the Syrians.

Sabra and Shatila during the massacres and who was responsible.

Hobeika refused to give more details saying that he would disclose all the facts at "the appropriate time."

Yet, he said, there was "a connivance" among the Falangist Party and the Israelis and "whoever was involved in the massacres."

"I think there was cooperation (on the part of the Falangists)," he said. "But during that time I was too busy to take a stand, whether positive or negative on the subject, because I was too busy investigating (the assassination of Bashir Gemayel) and the events in Sabra and Shatila were not that important to me so as to change my life or even to affect the course of the investigation."

According to PLO figures, around 3,000 Palestinians were killed in less than two days in the two refugee camps while Western reports estimated the victims at around 1,000.

## Palestinian presence

Whether Hobeika was directly involved in the massacres or not, and despite the fact that he has quit the Falangist Party, he still maintains a hostile attitude towards the Palestinians in Lebanon. "I categorically reject any political or military Palestinian presence in Lebanon, particularly unorganised military presence and operations," he said.

Furthermore, he differs with his Syrian backers and his Lebanese allies in that he does not make any distinction among the various Palestinian factions. "For me there is no difference between the (PLO Chairman Yasser) Arafat's Fatah or Fatah Uprising (dissidents) or even the Palestinian National Salvation Front (PNSF). They are all the same and I have a principled position against their presence in Lebanon, whether that presence aims at strengthening their influence, their negotiating position or at using Lebanese territory as a springboard to carry out operations against Israel," Hobeika said.

Syria and its Lebanese allies have repeatedly said that they support a military presence of the six-faction anti-Arafat PNSF in the refugee camps in Lebanon but strongly object to any presence of Arafat supporters in the country.

Asked if his position contradicted the essence of the Damascus accord, which stresses the Arab identity of Lebanon and its alliance with the Arab World against Israel in support of the Palestinian people, Hobeika said: "There is no contradiction and I believe I should be the first to fight if the Arab countries drew up a unified strategy against Israel."

"But my priority now is to reunify my country," he said. "What use can I be for the just cause of the Palestinian people, or for that matter, to the cause of the people of Uganda, if my country is divided?" he asked.

Pointing out that the Damascus accord stipulated the disbanding of all militias and, consequently, if

"we are going to disband all Lebanese militias for the sake of reuniting our country, why would the Palestinian fighters be any exception," he asked.

Hobeika denied reports that he was involved in the ongoing "camps war" between Amal and the Palestinians. "These are



Amin Gemayel

Unable to control his own government and country, the Christian Maronite leader has effectively used his "Palestinian card" and is now anxious for fence-mending with Damascus

groundless reports spread by ("Lebanese Forces" commander Samir) Geagea and Abu Ammar (Arafat) just to create confusion and split the patriotic front," he said, referring to Amal, the PSP, the Lebanese Communist Party, the pro-Syrian Baathist Party and the Syrian Social National Party as "the patriotic front."

He described the "camps war" as "a by-product of the general Lebanese question that would never be solved unless a comprehensive solution is found for the original problem."

"Therefore I am not a party in it and I have no intention of taking sides on the ground," he said. When pressed whether he would



Walid Junblatt

eventually participate in the battles since he was against the PLO's military presence, he said: "I shall only participate in a battle when I am sure that such a military struggle would eventually lead to the creation of a strong Lebanese state in Lebanon and I do not think that taking sides in the 'camps war' would lead to such an end."

In his view, the "camps war" is "unlikely to come to an end but will expand."

The recent battles between the Palestinians and Amal have "instilled strong hostilities and a

deep state of animosity between the Palestinians in general and the Shi'ites, regardless of their political beliefs," he said. "Therefore the main struggle should be aimed at finding a solution to the Lebanese question, or else none of these ceasefire accords will last," he added.

Although he spends most of his time in the Syrian capital, except for his frequent visits to his followers in the Bekaa Valley, Hobeika is not taking part in mediation talks to end the three-month camps war. In fact he sounds almost apathetic and definitely cynical when he discusses it, although he is frequently seen conferring with other Lebanese leaders in the posh Sheraton Hotel where most of the negotiations are taking place.

But, according to Lebanese analysts, Hobeika is not as disinterested as he tries to appear. "He does not welcome a strong presence of either the Palestinians or the Shi'ites, and therefore the continuation of this war of attrition suits him provided neither side emerges any stronger," said a well-informed Lebanese analyst. "But he is honest in that his main interest is in how any battle on the ground would affect the whole Lebanese question."

## Lebanese-Syrian equation

In fact, Hobeika seems to be waiting in the shadows like a hawk not for the results of the bloody fighting but on how the struggle between the Palestinians and Amal, and in particular, how the Syrian opposition to the return of Arafat loyalists to Lebanon, would affect the ongoing Saudi and Lebanese mediation efforts to achieve a Lebanese-Syrian summit.

President Gemayel, who is becoming increasingly isolated and finding it difficult to control his divided country and government, including his own half-Christian half-Muslim cabinet, has signalled that he is seeking reconciliation with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Assad and Gemayel would aim at squeezing Arafat and stopping the infiltration of his forces into Lebanon," the Lebanese analyst said.

But this is not the most important interesting part of the story to Hobeika, who is mainly interested in his own movement's future. Analysts, however, differ on whether, in the event of a Syrian-Lebanese summit, Hobeika would still remain the Christian horse for Damascus. While some believe that Damascus would sacrifice Hobeika for a reconciliation with Gemayel, others disagree, saying that the former pro-Israeli ally and right-wing fighter-turned-patriotic "is too valuable for Damascus to sacrifice."

According to the second theory, Hobeika was the first to challenge the very principles of the Falangist Party right from within its very core. This had greatly contributed to breaking the strong grip of the Falangists on the Maronite community and consequently if Damascus dumped him, other Maronites would be discouraged to leave the Falangists and would enhance the right-wing party's claims that it is providing a protectionist umbrella to Lebanon's Maronites.

Viewed in this context, Hobeika's former alliance with the Israelis seems to have long been forgiven by Damascus. "What alternative did we have? Here we had a man who represented a force in Lebanon, realising that his alliance with Israel would bring more destruction to his country, wanted to join the patriotic ranks. We could not just reject him and throw him right into the Israeli lap, could we?" challenged a Syrian commentator, who is very close to the government.

Hobeika himself sounds confident of his position, but expresses considerable flexibility as far as Gemayel's opposition to the Damascus accord is concerned. "It is only natural, under the present circumstances, that some people support the pact while others oppose it," he said. "But everything can be discussed through dialogue. We know that the accord itself is not enough and should be modified, but it constitutes a prelude to a comprehensive solution and should be followed by many other steps."

"I hope that President Gemayel would understand this through logic. Regardless of my opinion of him, Amin is the key to a solution because of his position as the president."

Asked if he thought Gemayel would respond positively to whatever Syria was offering as a basis for reconciliation, Hobeika said: "Amin, in my opinion, is very selfish and is not the kind who would make sacrifices for his country. But it is his chance now to save Lebanon and himself before it is too late."

But Gemayel is likely to face strong opposition from the Falangist Party and more so from the Geagea-controlled "Lebanese Forces" if he decided to give concessions to Syria and its Lebanese allies.

Differences between Gemayel and Geagea culminated in a bloody confrontation last September when the "Lebanese Forces" assassinated a top-ranking Lebanese army officer in his bed as retaliation for the killing of two brothers in the militia at a military checkpoint in east Beirut.

In Hobeika's view, the "biggest confrontation is yet to come" between the two. "Both men (Gemayel and Geagea) are competing for the presidency, and it is most likely that Amin would try to offer Geagea's head in return for reconciliation with Damascus and his seat."

Hobeika views himself completely out of this competition since it will allow the Shi'ite Amal movement a better share and an upper hand in any future national dialogue or settlement.

The lack of a coherent and unified position on the part of patriotic forces, coupled with the continuation of the "camps war" could lead to dramatic change of alliances, especially if a Syrian Lebanese summit does take place. According to knowledgeable Lebanese sources Amal leader Nabih Berri threatened at one stage of the Damascus negotiations on the "camps war" that he would join hands with Gemayel if the PSP and the Communist Party did not join Amal in the fighting against the Palestinians. But analysts dismiss such a possibility as long as no real progress is made in mediation efforts between Assad and Gemayel.

In Hobeika's view, Gemayel represents a "political trend within the Maronite community which believes in an alliance with another sector to run the country." So far the Sunni

Muslims have played this role, but analysts say Gemayel could opt for an alliance with Amal, as the representative of the mainstream Shi'ites, as part of a deal with Damascus. One analyst says that

"the president has so far used the 'Palestinian card' successfully to pressure Damascus but in the long run he would need a powerful Lebanese, not a Palestinian ally, since the Palestinians will only be frowned upon by Syria."

This analysis contradicts reports of an alliance between Arafat and Gemayel, but even the most ardent critics of Arafat concede that "it was a tactical and short-term alliance" or, more accurately, "a temporary and tactical convergence of interests." According to Hobeika, "there cannot possibly be a real alliance between Arafat and Gemayel."

"The problem is Lebanon has always been that any local party makes an alliance with a foreign force only to exert its hegemony on other sects," he said, "but experience has shown that the Lebanese were committing a grave mistake by using such alliances to dominate others while they could have used them to set up a strong unified state in Lebanon."

## Conflicting goals

He said he did not oppose such alliances in principle and did not even differentiate between the framework for such strategies. In his view there are three political lines in Lebanon today: the first is the line which advocates the establishment of a Christian-dominated state in Lebanon. Geagea represents this line "which had developed fast during a certain period but had reached the ceiling of its growth."

The second line is the one which advocates the establishment of an Islamic state along the lines of Iran and "this trend is growing fast."

The third line is the "patriotic line" which seeks the establishment of a strong secular and democratic state in Lebanon. "I am part of the third line, which is unfortunately the

that Amal has become Syria's major ally in Lebanon and its confrontation with the PLO has enhanced its role, although its military failure could change the alliance."

Hobeika's position is no exception in being cautious not to directly get involved in the "camps war" against the Palestinians because, like others in Lebanon, strengthening Amal is bound to have its repercussions. "For me, the result is all the same whether the ally is Palestinian or Israeli, progressive or reactionary," Hobeika explains.

"The Lebanese parties should be evaluated by their relation to their country and not by their position vis-a-vis the Palestinian question."

Throughout the interview Hobeika kept repeating that he "did not suffer from the Palestinian complex" and that he did not mind voicing his ideas clearly. The young leader is apparently very aware of his reputation as an opponent of the Palestinians and as a man who from time to time, throws rather extremely hostile remarks as if to test reactions of the listeners. For example, he jokes that he was taking "a stroll in Sabra and Shatila the other day" and then watches the listeners' reaction.

He expressed frustration that people and the press "cannot understand that Elie Hobeika has actually changed and was struggling for a patriotic and secular state in Lebanon."

The turning point in his political thought, in his own words, was in 1982, when he "realised that the Falangist alliance with Israel had brought destruction for Lebanon just as the alliance between the Palestinians and the leftists in the 70s brought destruction and more divisions to Lebanon." But in all cases where such alliances existed, including the close Falangist-French alliance, "there was chance for the new factor to break the status quo and for the good of a united Lebanon."

Hobeika's view of the Israelis and the Palestinians "as external power or allies" again contradicts



Nabih Berri

The reemergence of PLO military power in Lebanon threatens to undermine Amal's position as the major Syrian ally

weakest in Lebanon."

In this aspect Hobeika's assessment does not differ from the analysis of any leftist leader in Lebanon, but at times the former "Lebanese Forces" leader sounds as if he is not sure that his "allies" — co-signers of the Damascus pact — share the same goals. "The forces which belong to the patriotic line should meet to define its strategic goal: is it a secular state or Muslim state?" he asked in a clear reference to the Amal movement.

His question, in fact, echoed the doubts that many secular Lebanese have over common intentions of the signatories of the Damascus accord. In private,



Yasser Arafat

His departure from Beirut in 1982 led to a change in the balance of power in favour of Amal. Will his return reshuffle the cards?

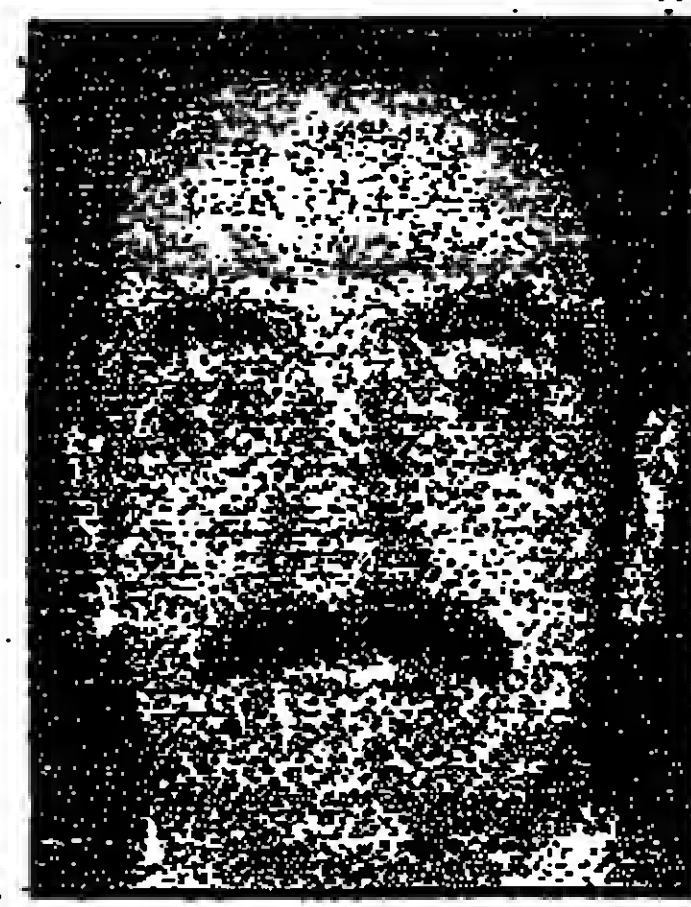
some Lebanese leaders, particularly those who belong to pan-Arab nationalist or Marxist groups, concede that the PSP of Walid Junblatt will accept a practical settlement that could consolidate the de facto Druze canton in the Shouf and Alei mountains while they raise more doubts about Amal intentions in the south.

Ironically enough, most of the Lebanese parties, judging by contacts this correspondent made with them in Damascus, seemed to fear and resent Amal more than the Palestinians. But they concede

According to Lebanese analysts Hobeika's breakdown has altered the balance of power "in favour of the left and has created the most serious rift within the Falangist movement."

An above all, Hobeika is now an ally and strongly backed by Damascus, which, in the view of all the Lebanese parties, "is the catalyst which could reunify a divided country."

"We came to Damascus because it is the main regional power and that could act as a catalyst to reunify Lebanon," Hobeika said.



Elie Hobeika

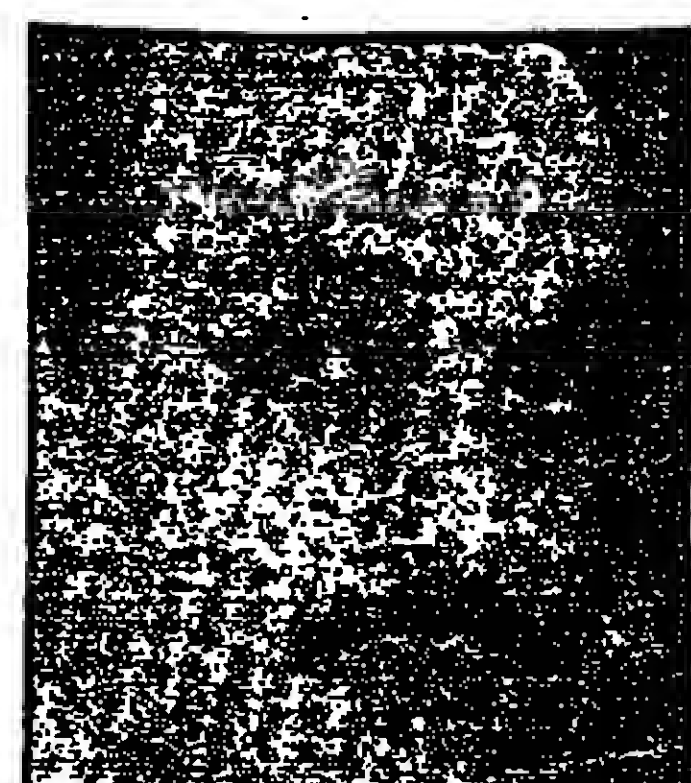
People and the press cannot understand Elie Hobeika has actually changed and is struggling for a secular state in Lebanon.

predominantly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) — and enjoyed the backing of other secular and leftist Lebanese political groups and factions as well as pro-Syrian politicians. But Damascus soon found out that having a Christian signatory was not any guarantee for the implementation of the accord. In less than two weeks Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, a Maronite Christian, joined forces with the majority of the "Lebanese Forces" and removed Hobeika from the leadership.

Mr. Hobeika was forced to flee to Paris. He later showed up in Damascus, apparently preparing for another round of fighting to

## Sabra and Shatila

Mr. Hobeika does not deny his former alliance with the Israelis



Samir Geagea

Will his head be the price for a Syrian-Lebanese reconciliation? Or will he manage to outwit Gemayel?

regain his control of the "Lebanese Forces." But his attempt to penetrate the "green line" into the predominantly Christian east Beirut last September was a complete failure and he later retreated with his supporters to the Bekaa Valley town of Zahleh.

But in his interview with the Jordan Times, Hobeika insisted that his aim was not to be leader of the Maronite Christian community in Lebanon but he wanted "to form a patriotic framework in which all Lebanese Christians and Muslims who

but denies any direct role in the Sabra and Shatila massacres. "In 1982, I was the chief of the intelligence department of the Falangist Party and as you know there is a difference between a security intelligence officer and a fighter," he said mockingly. "Furthermore, I was too busy handling another case which far more important than what was happening in Sabra and Shatila — the assassination of President (elect) Bashir (Gemayel)," he added. However, he conceded later that his department was "aware of what was going on in



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## History will not forget

LAST summer Israeli President Chaim Herzog pardoned the internal security agency chief, Avraham Shalom, and 10 other agency officials in the now commonly referred to as the Shin Bet security scandal in which two Palestinian bus hijackers were murdered after their surrender to Israeli security personnel in April, 1984. The justification put forward then by the Israeli establishment was that state security warranted the pardon.

If it were not for the publication of their photographs — being led away alive by Israeli agents — by the Israeli Hadashot daily newspaper in the first place the scandal would not have been exposed and the cover-up would have been complete. In May 1984, an Israeli defence ministry inquiry headed by General Meir Zorea recommended that Brig. Yitzhak Mordechai, the then chief paratrooper officer who stormed the hijacked bus, face courtmartial on suspicion he had pistol-whipped to death one of the hijackers. But in August 1985, a military judge acquitted him and now he is chief of Israel's so-called Southern Command. To top it all, the latest Israeli justice ministry report, based on police findings, has exonerated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir from all responsibilities in the scandal although he was the prime minister at the time of murder of the two Arabs and as such responsible for the activities of the Shin Bet. Shin Bet chief Avraham Shalom himself had specifically pointed out Shamir as the Israeli official who gave him permission and authority to "liquidate" the Palestinian hijackers on the spot.

To sum up the Israeli findings and conclusions, there was a crime — the crime of murdering two Palestinian hijackers — but still there were no criminals; no persons who committed the crime. The Israeli investigation of the whole scandal has left a trail of exonerations, cover-ups and whitewashing, befitting the real record of Israeli duplicity since its inception.

Ever since its creation among our midst in the Middle East, Israel has been selling itself as a beacon of enlightenment and democracy in a sea of darkness. It has told and retold the international community on every occasion and at every forum that its standards and values are those of the West and in keeping with Western standards of democracy, ethics and morality. It has insisted that it has not and is not capable of committing atrocities or acts of terrorism. And, true to form, it has covered up an untold number of atrocities and acts of terrorism that it had perpetrated against the Arabs in the course of its existence. The massacres of Deir Yassin and Kufir Kasim are glossed over and whitewashed as are the aerial bombings of civilians which took the lives of thousands of innocent lives in Lebanon and elsewhere. Its complicity in the massacre at the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila was also covered up in the same manner and under the same guise: state security.

With this in mind we would like to ask that, if Prime Minister Shamir is not responsible for the murder of the two Palestinians, and Brig. Yitzhak Mordechai and his troops who stormed the bus are also innocent, and the Shin Bet personnel and agents who assumed control over the hijackers and interrogated them after their surrender are also innocent, who then is the culprit? Who committed the premeditated murder of the two Arabs in cold blood?

How can Israel claim that it is the only democratic country in our midst when it has had such a long record of cover-ups of atrocities, murders and terrorism which have been committed in its name and in defence of its nefarious causes?

General Meir Zorea who led the first of the three so-called inquiries into the hijacking commented upon hearing about the pardoning of the Shin Bet officials that Israel's moral values had gone "down the drain"; but unfortunately, he was some 40 years late in his assessment. We the Arabs had seen and detected the true colour of Israel way back but of course the world would not believe us when we said anything negative about Israel and its unacceptable practices in this part of the world. Perhaps the international community can now see Israel in its true colour — a state which has a facade of democracy and morality but which in fact is a reactionary country which knows no limits in pursuing its goals and objectives. Yitzhak Shamir has never been made to account for his direct involvement in the Deir Yassin massacre of 1948, and now he is allowed to escape unscathed and go scot free in the latest of his serialised acts of terrorism. In any case, man may forget Israel's criminal record but history will not.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Rai: Gulf peace is priority

EGYPTIAN-Jordanian meetings ended in Aqaba Monday after President Mubarak discussed with King Hussein all aspects of the Arab situation and made a review of international affairs. Though no details were disclosed about the discussions, the president's cable to the King upon departure and the statements of the Egyptian foreign minister following the talks give clear indications that both leaders are determined to carry on efforts for the sake of breaking the deadlock in the Middle East peace process. They seem to be concerned about preventing the Middle East question from being forgotten and shelved by parties involved directly or indirectly in the Middle East conflict. Both leaders realise that freezing the Middle East problem would open the way for Israel to consolidate its hold on Arab territory and offer it the chance to implement expansionist plans in the Arab region. Shelling the Middle East question would open the way for Israel to escalate its military, political and economic activity designed to perpetuate occupation and continued evacuation of Arab inhabitants from their homeland. The flurry of diplomatic activity over the past few weeks in the region indicates that 1987 will witness a new initiative for reactivating the peace process. Perhaps the up-coming Islamic summit in Kuwait would usher in such initiative designed to establish peace based on justice, and the return of Arab people to their homeland. But, before embarking on such endeavour, the Islamic leaders would first tackle the Gulf war and bring a speedy end to the conflict and the continued bloodshed.

### Al Dustour: Ugly face of Israel

THE Israeli justice ministry has just issued a statement vindicating leaders of the security services, Shin Bet, from any involvement in the killing of two Palestinian youths captured by troops following a resistance attack in 1984. One of those vindicated is the present prime minister of Israel, Yitzhak Shamir. This shameful show of Israeli justice proves beyond doubt the collusion of the judicial authorities in Israel with the government in covering up for the atrocities committed by the Zionists against the Arab people of Palestine. This statement exposes to the world the true image of the Israeli rulers and their system of government and their inhuman practices against Arab people trying to regain their rights. The Israelis have a long record of criminal activity against the Palestinians since 1948, when they usurped Palestine. They are known to have committed massacres in Deir Yassin and Kufir Kasim among numerous other villages and towns they occupied in Palestine. Absolving Shamir and other Zionists from the crime of killing two captured youths contradicts all Israeli claims about justice, democracy and the prevalence of law in the Jewish state. Acquitting murderers means encouraging them to pursue further criminal actions against the Palestinian people. The justice ministry statement is not a mere scandal; it is one that reflects the ugly face of the Jewish state.

## VIEW FROM AMERICA

# Iran scandal turns Americans inwards not outwards

By Franz Schurmann

SAN FRANCISCO — The Iran arms deal scandals are still growing in Washington, yet little of the debate deals with foreign policy. No-one is seriously arguing that the U.S. should be pro-Iranian or pro-Iraqi or neutral. All the debate is about who was responsible for the arms deals and who was responsible for diverting the money to the Nicaraguan contras.

Yet it is obvious that U.S. officials are deeply concerned about foreign policy. They are worried about U.S.-Soviet relations. They are worried about Central America. And they are deeply worried about the Middle East. Yet as the lesser officials worry, the top officials of the United States are busy defending themselves against Watergate-type scandals.

It would seem that the president and the secretary of state and other leaders have little time left for the larger issues of foreign policy. Yet events are moving along, perhaps moving along faster now.

The American media have given some attention to the rising unrest in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. They have also given some attention to the fighting in southern Lebanon between Palestinians and Amal. But they have been giving some more attention to the recent OPEC meeting. With the new agreement to cut back production and seek a higher price for oil, it is evident that oil prices in the U.S. will soon begin to rise from the very low points that have fallen down to in recent months.

Oil prices went up dramatically two times before. The first time was during the October 1973 war. The second time was as a consequence of the Iranian revolution. If they should now rise a third time, then that could also be because of some new turning-point in the affairs of the Middle East. That would mean a turning point in one or two or all three of the three great crises shaking the Middle

East: the Iraq-Iran war, the Lebanon troubles, and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

It would appear that the turning point will probably come in the Gulf war. It would also appear that one reason the world price of oil went down so sharply was the disunity of the Middle Eastern oil powers. Now, however, a considerable degree of unity has been restored in OPEC, and American papers now speculate that there soon will be a rebound upwards of oil prices. That unity was brought about by renewed cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Those American observers concerned with the Middle East wonder how much the Reagan government supported this new Saudi-Iran rapprochement. Was Vice-President George Bush, who travelled to the Middle East, earlier this year, involved? He has close connections to the oil industry. The two key officials who have so far resigned, National Security Council Director John Poindexter and NSC member, Oliver North, were also well liked by the oil industry. Many conservatives are angry about the fall of Poindexter and North, but their anger is tempered by the fact that many of these same conservatives are also pro-Israel. And despite talk of Israeli arms shipments to Iran, in fact the Israelis consider such a Saudi-Iranian rapprochement as going directly against their vital interests (their most vital interest being an Arab and Muslim World which is endlessly fighting with itself).

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt is acutely aware of the tremendous pressure of events on Egypt and on the region. His recent trip to France, West Germany, Italy, and Greece was designed partly to get new economic assistance for Egypt during its current terrible economic crisis. But he also sought to get the Europeans to help in settling the three great crises of the region which Al Ahram labelled "explosive".

Many Americans are absolutely astounded by the bizarre wrangling going on in the capital of the most powerful and influential nation on earth. Yet because there is this new Watergate scandal, there is no debate on foreign policy towards the Middle East. But that there is no debate on foreign policy towards the Middle East, then the question is possibly to the good! If there were such a debate, then the question of Israel would arise, and soon enough the pro-Israel lobby would dominate the debate. Now that lobby is silent, waiting to see which way the current "Iran-gate" controversy is going.

There seems to be a sense in Washington that, in the end, neither the United States nor the Soviet Union nor Europe can do much to channel the course of developments in the Middle East. We are way past the era of colonialism when external powers were able to determine the fate of millions of people outside of Western Europe. The three great crises have a life of their own which external powers can influence to a limited degree. Or, anyway, external powers which are not in the Middle East.

It is possible that Washington is beginning to realise how limited its powers are in the world. It used to show its power by military interventions or propping up friendly governments. Now the first does not work (as Vietnam for the U.S. and Afghanistan for the Soviets show), and the second can in the end do little to rescue countries from fundamental problems as today in Egypt.

Perhaps Washington now believes that in the Middle East it has no other option than to let events locally originated and locally determined take their natural course.

The column View From America is published on every Thursday but since the Jordan Times will not be published on this Thursday, Jan. 1, 1987, the column appears today.

## S. Africa ends 86 under emergency and facing new sanctions

By Ruth Pitchford  
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — South Africans began 1986 with mediation in the air as President P.W. Botha told parliament apartheid was outdated but the year ended with their country under harsher emergency rule than ever and facing further international sanctions.

The death toll in 2½ years of political violence in South Africa passed 2,000 in 1986 and at the end of the year it stood at 2,200.

The government introduced stricter press curbs in December, saying they were needed to counter a planned Christmas campaign of violence by the outlawed African National Congress (ANC).

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok spent Christmas on morale-boosting visits to security forces in the townships. Up to 10,000 people are believed to have spent Christmas in jail, detained without trial under the emergency.

South Africa is preparing to defend itself against what Botha has described as economic warfare in 1987. Businessmen and economists believe a wave of sanctions and disinvestment, led by the United States, will worsen.

On May 19 this year, South African aircraft raided the Zambian capital Lusaka, wiping out a spirit of optimism that 1986 would see historic talks between Pretoria and its black nationalist opponents.

For weeks, diplomats and the South African media had said a team of international negotiators might persuade the ruling white National Party to talk to the ANC.

South Africa sent its forces to raid alleged ANC bases in Lusaka, Harare and Gaborone and the mediators went home.

International sanctions hit the economy and by the end of the year South Africa was under harsher emergency rule than ever. Pretoria said it faced a communist-backed onslaught.

The mediators, seven statesmen sent by the 49-nation Commonwealth, which comprises Britain and most of its former colonies, began their mission in January as Botha told parliament that apartheid, the white-dominated republic's policy of racial segregation, was outdated.

Botha tried to promote plans to scrap the pass laws which exposed majority blacks to arbitrary arrest in certain areas — the aspect of apartheid most hated by blacks.

Botha said the Afrikaner community, descended from Dutch settlers, had won their place in South Africa from a hostile British empire but he dropped his speech-making habit of wagging a belligerent finger at the world.

His government began to look conciliatory towards the Commonwealth group.

In March, Botha lifted the state of emergency he had imposed in July 1985 and in April President Reagan praised him as a man of change. Botha declared a moratorium on pass law arrests.

Early in May, diplomats hoped for a breakthrough by the Commonwealth mission and South African Foreign Minister P.W. Botha said there was a "potential chance" of its success.

The raids on Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana, all



Commonwealth countries, made the Commonwealth group's task of reconciling black and Afrikaner nationalism impossible.

Opposition politicians and diplomats say with hindsight that its task had probably been impossible from the start. The ANC wanted power and Botha made it clear he would not give it up.

In June, with anti-apartheid leaders telling blacks they would be marching on Pretoria by Dec. 31, Botha imposed an emergency far more severe than the one lifted in March.

The June 16 anniversary of the 1976 Soweto uprising in Johannesburg's main black

township took place under media censorship and it was impossible to gauge how far calls for protests were heeded.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher sent Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe on a vain mission to repair the diplomatic damage done by the raids and the new emergency.

She and Reagan were unable to dissuade the European Community and the U.S. Congress from imposing sanctions. By October, South Africa's economy, struggling with its worst post-war recession, faced what Botha called economic warfare.

## Gandhi striving hard to improve his image

By Seema Sirohi  
The Associated Press

REENCHA, India — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has been travelling his country, dispensing money and listening to the complaints of peasants in an effort to improve his political standing.

Gandhi's trip to the drought-stricken state of Rajasthan last week was typical of his recent domestic visits.

In 24 hours he made nine stops and in each village he was greeted by hundreds of poor, illiterate villagers who cheered wildly as his helicopter landed.

Often Gandhi receives or arrives wearing local headgear. At Reencha, a desert village 378 kilometres from state capital of Jaipur, the prime minister donned a huge, red Rajasthani turban.

He immediately insisted on being taken to huts he sighted from the air — not where officials had organised a reception.

People crowded around, shouting to get the prime minister's ear for their complaints. Gandhi went into a mud and

thatch hut to ask the owner if he was getting enough food in the drought.

"Sir, I manage somehow with government subsidised wheat. But the conditions are very bad for us," Lakshman Ram told Gandhi.

The 42-year-old leader listened carefully, occasionally telling aides to take notes. Ten minutes later Gandhi flew on to the next Rajasthan stop.

His schedule was just as arduous for his visits two weeks before to snow-covered Kashmir in the north and West Bengal, a state hit by heavy flooding in the east.

"People just love him on these trips," said a Gandhi aide who asked not to be named. "He is approachable and they don't feel intimidated. He talks politely and listens patiently."

But the visits are costly. In fiscal 1986, Gandhi spent about 100 million rupees (\$7.7 million) on domestic travels.

A senior Rajasthan official, also insisting on anonymity, estimated that about 10 million rupees (\$770,000) was spent on the

25-hour trip to his state. Hundreds of government vehicles, were mobilised weeks beforehand to scout villages and oversee arrangements.

"I don't know what these whirlwind visits really achieve," said the state official. "He should come unannounced so he can really see what is happening."

Gandhi's recent travels follow persistent criticism by newspapers and political opponents about his frequent foreign trips amid growing problems at home. In two years in office, Gandhi has been to 29 countries.

Critics also maintain his efforts to modernise India have little effect on rural villagers, who make up most of the country's population.

Gandhi's popularity was at its height in late 1984 just after Indira Gandhi's assassination thrust him into power. His Congress Party had its largest victory ever, and he won almost unanimous praise from newspapers.

Since then, the party has

suffered a series of losses in state elections, notably in its traditional stronghold states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Newspapers have increasingly criticised Gandhi as indecisive and uninformed on the country's problems.

A major criticism has been Gandhi's failure to stop Sikh violence in Punjab, where about 700 people have died this year in attacks that police blame on militants demanding a separate Sikh nation.

In Rajasthan, Gandhi rode a camel. In Kashmir, he wore the local lambwool cap. He always says a few words in the regional language and often announces federal grants.

But newspaper criticism means little to India's rural poor who hold the prime minister in high esteem.

"I know our Rajiv will look after us. He is honest," said Nathu Ji, a poor tribesman from the Rajasthan village of Nokli, a community without electricity and only one hand water pump for 100 households.

## Chinese leaders to resume reform debate

By Stephen Nisbet  
Reuters

PEKING — The politburo of China's ruling Communist Party is likely to hold a special meeting soon to discuss plans for 1987, including political reform in the aftermath of this month's student protests, analysts said.

Such a meeting, possibly in late January in the southern city Canton where the leaders like to escape Peking's bitter winters, would let them try to draw lessons from a protest movement which, by Chinese standards, nearly got out of hand.

An opportunity for debate could arise during discussion of a progress report by Premier Zhao

Ziyang, who heads a committee charged three months ago with charting out ideas on the controversial issue of political reform.

Many of the slogans about democracy that appeared on banners during campus rallies in more than a dozen cities were already in the air — put there by some of the men in charge of China's one-party dictatorship.

The communists have political reform on their agenda because some leaders, including Deng Xiaoping, believe China cannot prosper unless party officials get off the backs of state managers trying to run businesses efficiently.

Separating more clearly the role

of the Communist Party from that of government falls a long way short of anything Westerners would call democracy ("they are talking about administrative changes," one diplomat said.)

The idea is enough to excite strong opposition from leftists who fear a long-term dilution of their present vast powers, even though the reformers stress that the Communist Party must retain its undisputed leadership role.

The analysts said party leaders would find common ground in agreeing that the state of student democracy protests (which reformist talk helped to spark) went too far, certainly in Shanghai where tens of thousands packed the streets a week ago.

They said an argument was likely between reformers and conservatives over the lessons to be drawn from the marches.

The reformers would argue that the student unrest showed the necessity for pushing on with political restructuring.

However, the alleged excess of the protesters in Shanghai (ironically, long a leftist stronghold) would give ammunition to the conservatives. They could argue that talks of political reform awakened dangerous democratic longings.

Deng Xiaoping is doing with the students what Mao Tse-tung did — seeking support outside the party to combat opposition within it," one analyst said.

## Tougher days ahead for Reagan with Congress

By Alexander G. Higgins  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Ronald Reagan enters his final two years in office in 1987 in perhaps the toughest political position of his presidency. The incoming Congress is controlled by opposition Democrats and revelations about Iran-contra dealings are eroding his popularity.

Revelations that Reagan's administration was involved in selling arms to Iran and using the proceeds to finance contra rebels fighting the Nicaraguan government have spilled into Canada. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, closely linked to Reagan, likewise has been declining in public opinion polls.

Reagan's personal popularity, which has been consistently strong during his first six years in office, was at a high about the time of the November elections even though his heavy campaigning failed to keep the Republican Party in control of the Senate.

By mid-December, Reagan's "approval rating" was running 20 points below his pre-election mark. In late October 67 per cent of Americans surveyed said they approved of his work; in December he had a 47 per cent approval rating.

Now Reagan faces a 55-45

Democratic majority in the Senate, while the Democrats strengthened their already powerful majority in the House of Representatives, moving to a 258-177 lead over the Republicans in that body.

Each house has chosen its investigative committees to look into arms sales to Iran during a public position banning such sales. The committees will build on the work already done by the intelligence committees and other panels.

Reagan would have had complications enough to pass his legislative programme with the Democrats controlling both houses.

The investigations will provide that much more of a hindrance. Because the opposition has the majority in each house, Democrats will chair both select committees and have the potential to drag out hearings or press harder to embarrass Reagan.

Party leaders, however, have stressed that some of the most moderate and serious members were chosen from both sides of the aisle to avoid any appearance of seeking partisan benefit from the inquiry.

Reagan and other politicians have called for a rapid conclusion to the investigations lest the U.S. government be paralysed by preoccupation with the affair.



## LETTERS

### Save Santa Claus

To the Editor:

CHRISTMAS time came this year commercial as ever. Jumping Santas could be seen outside many stores and supermarkets and, surprisingly, Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse also made appearances. Who could tell the latter's relation to the Christmas tradition.

Santa the "real one" is known to be a friendly old man who appreciates good behaviour and rewards good children with presents. These masked guys who were seen on the streets of Amman during Christmas were obviously reproductions — much younger and moving with their bells. As one could imagine "the real Santa" appreciates peace and tranquillity; his reindeers are the ones that make the noise. Once Santa has visited we all know he is on his way to the North Pole with his reindeers after making rounds to the good children all over the world. But here Santa, or definitely poor imitations of the real one, is coming to our shopping centres for New Year's Eve. This is obviously to make profit and expand the business of the Christmas season.

But the showmen would be wise to create their own character, for instance a friendly clown who could appear with gifts and balloons for any season.

Would someone please save Santa Claus. He belongs to Christmas.

Like Madanat,  
Amman.



## Report says new 'green revolution' needed

By Gene Krainer  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A new kind of "green revolution" is needed to feed the rise in world population expected by the end of the century, a Washington researcher says.

The world population will swell in 13 years from 5 billion to 6.2 billion, and "just to maintain food-consumption levels will require a 26 per cent increase over the 1985 average grain yield," said Edward C. Wolf, a senior Worldwatch researcher. He identified them as subsistence farmers working poor land, with too little money to buy fertilisers or hybrid seeds and participating only marginally in the market system.

Twenty years after the "Green revolution," science has perfected techniques for regenerating natural soil fertility on marginal land. And biotechnology, the manipulation of plant genetic material, "could be used to improve Third World staples including millet, cassava and tropical legumes that have received little research attention," Wolf said.

In the past, it took decades to produce high-yielding wheats and rice by conventional breeding but "biotechnology offers cheaper and quicker ways to improve other Third World staples," he said. Wolf advocated joining biotechnology to traditional farming practices "to raise yields and reduce the chance of crop failure due to erratic rainfall and infertile soils."

"Until recently, a kind of myopia has kept the research community from recognising opportunities for agricultural innovations that lie in traditional practices," he said. For example, only 20 per cent of the research effort in the sub-Saharan, frequently threatened by famine, focuses on intercropping, which is traditional practice.

New high-yield seeds, fertilisers and pesticides sharply raised the output of Asian and Latin American farmers with access to irrigation and markets for their crops, Wolf said.

But two-thirds of the land planted to cereal grains in the Third World did not participate, and productivity was not improved measurably for the 230-

million rural households involved, he added.

"This group of nearly 1.4 billion people in the Third World holds the key to future increases in world food production," said Wolf, a senior Worldwatch researcher. He identified them as subsistence farmers working poor land, with too little money to buy fertilisers or hybrid seeds and participating only marginally in the market system.

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Mount Everest .... world's highest peak

## Everest remains most popular peak

By Binaya Gurucharya  
The Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal — Two hundred people have conquered Mt. Everest in 33 years and about half that many have died trying, but the world's tallest peak continues to serve as a beacon to diehard mountain climbers.

"The mountain is there ... it is a dream of every mountaineer to climb the highest peak," said Shambhu Tamang, 31, of Kathmandu, who has scaled 8,848-metre Everest twice.

The first time was in 1973 at the age of 18 — still an age record among climbers. Tamang, still drawn by the challenge and the danger, came back 12 years later to repeat the feat along another route.

Nepalese officials, who welcome the expeditions, say they get more requests for assaults on Everest than for any other mountain in the Himalayan range. Eight of the world's 14 tallest peaks — all over 8,000 metres — are in this remote nation tucked between India and Tibet.

"Nepal is always on the news in the global media because of these adventures," said Janak Thapa, director-general of country's tourism administration. "This worldwide publicity has given a big thrust to tourism in the country."

More than 100 people have lost their lives in the past three decades while trying to negotiate Everest's dizzying height. Many more have been forced to give up after suffering dehydration, frostbite or other ailments, complicated by the rarified air and fickle weather.

"On Everest... we have only the survivors," said American Barry C. Bishop, one of those rescued from the mountain.

Many climbers are eager to try Everest, despite the dangers. Two South Korean winter expeditions are trying to reach the top now during the coldest season, from December to February.

Fifteen Alpine clubs from around the world have applied for climbs on Everest in spring 1987. A fee of 60,500 rupees (about \$3,000) must accompany each

application. But the Nepalese Tourism Ministry officials who sort out the applications normally grant permission to only three groups per season.

A group of Czechs already has secured a permit to go up via the southern-face route next spring. A Swedish expedition will be allowed to tackle the traditional southeast ridge, pioneered by Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay during the first conquest in 1953.

Only the steep west ridge route, the most challenging, has not yet been assigned to any aspirants for spring. Few have conquered this route.

Even a traditionally non-mountaineering nation such as Malaysia has submitted an application for permission to carry out a Himalayan expedition, selecting Everest as their target for 1997.

The Kenyan minister of public works, housing and physical planning, Kenneth Matiba, is also negotiating for a permit to lead a team, which would be Africa's first expedition to Everest.

Such excursions present financial and logistical problems. An average Everest expedition costs about \$200,000 and consists of five to 10 climbers. But each climber normally needs a support group of two Sherpa guides and 10 porters.

Sherpas are the highlanders of Nepal, living in villages on the southern side of the Himalayas, most in the Solu-Khumbu districts of the country's northeast. The Everest base camp is a three-day walk from Namche Bazar, the centre of Sherpa land.

About 300 men of the Sherpa tribe are actively associated with mountaineering activities, using the income from the expeditions to supplement the family mainstay, farming.

Although some explorers recently have tried using Alpine-style climbing in the Himalayas — shunning Sherpa support and the traditional camps along the routes — Tamang says Everest is among the peaks which expeditionists can't do by themselves.

## Women — and the problem with men

A recent survey has been said to suggest that single women over 40 in the U.S. are "more likely to be killed by a terrorist than to marry." This oversimplification of a problem has been challenged. Elgie Gillespie reports on a new battle of the sexes.

WASHINGTON — The authors of a recent U.S. study on marriage, which revealed a shortage of marriageable men and roused the spectre of spinsterhood, feel that media hysteria has distorted their findings.

In more than a decade of continuous decline, the American marriage rate is estimated now as only 2.6 per cent for women over 40. For 30-year-olds, there is a bleak 20 per cent chance of reaching the altar, while the chances drop to 5 per cent for 35-year-olds.

The reasons may be traced to the so-called baby boom, when more babies were born each year between 1946 and 1956. Given that most women marry men who are a little older, there are now only 77 eligible men per 100 women between 38 and 42. According to sociologists, these women are often "the cream of the crop" — high-earning, college-educated, middle-class white women — while non-marrying men tend to be the "leftovers," they say.

However, the authors of the figures which spread so much doom among American women feel that they have been misunderstood. "There was certainly a kind of smug 1-told-you-so ring to some media versions of the facts," said one of the three co-authors of Marriage Patterns in The United States, 26-year-old Yale university graduate in sociology, Patricia Craig.

"There is no need to panic yet!" she added. Together with her two senior associate professors, Neil Bennett and David Bloom, Miss Craig studied women from 15 to 75 years of age in 70,000 American households. They projected a curve which slumped dramatically to near-zero for women over 40. As a mere guess, their curve will not be tested for accuracy before the century has ended, Miss Craig points out.

Yet, last Saint Valentine's Day, their modest curve was written into a story on love and marriage in the local Stamford, Connecticut, newspaper. It was

picked up by Associated Press, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, People magazine and by Newsweek who ran the tag that women over 40 are "more likely to be killed by a terrorist than to marry."

The reluctant co-authors found themselves in the middle of a stormy, bitterly-divided reaction to the man-shortage story. Few people have listened to their own details of the media interpretations.

"These are only figures projected for an aggregate sample; they don't take into account any other factors, such as the number of women who choose not to marry," says Patricia Craig. "It's nothing new to say that less than 80 per cent of white, college-educated women marry."

We knew that already. It's just a different study model." Across the board, Miss Craig adds, 90 per cent of all Americans do eventually marry, even now. The study, which will not be published until next year, has been challenged by a Department of the Census demographer, Jean Morrom, who forecasts a higher degree of marriage rates through all age groups.

"Same data, different models," explains Miss Craig, defending Miss Morrom's findings and her own at the same time. All the demographers point to what they term "the bulge in the pyramid" as the root cause of high-achieving, baby-boomer women remaining single. The 13 per cent of men who are estimated to be homosexual further cut the odds for women who feel themselves to be sellers in a buyer's market.

But eight out of 10 women do still want to marry and the increasing number of non-married co-habitees do not account for all the people in the larger-than-ever single sector, say the study authors. "They're not all just living together," said Miss Craig. "More people are staying single than ever before."

The Boston Globe columnist, Ellen Goodman, found the rash hysterical media articles "makes

the rash of post-30 single women sound simultaneously desperate and picky." But, Miss Goodman adds, young women no longer have to marry or burn. The options now include single parenthood, co-habiting, adoption by singles, extended families of one kind or another or merely long affairs with married men.

"If women are choosy as the charts suggest, it's because there are choices, even second-best choices," Miss Goodman suggests.

The spirited defence of women commentators who reject the study findings, and have demanded a similar one on men, contrasted with the gleeful male reaction. The message which most men took from the figures was that those women who postponed marriage in order to pursue a career simply missed their chances.

The best-selling author of a paperback about women's depression, Dr. Herbert Freudenberger, says that he has many women patients in their 30s who complain about their "biological clocks ticking," but he still does not advise women to drop out of college to have babies.

"But, I do tell my patients to do some serious re-prioritising about their lives, and think of where they would want to be in five years' time," says Dr. Freudenberger.

"For instance, one of my patients has just turned down the chairmanship of a board because she is trying to become pregnant. I have clients who are so busy with their careers, it would be a wonder if they could become pregnant at all."

Balancing the odds may mean putting careers rather than marriage on hold, he thinks. "Women have to be very careful. What would seven or eight years of night-duty in medical school do to their social lives, for instance?" he asks.

Such retrenching of thought will undoubtedly make a difference to the next generations of girls, he thinks. Of even more significance, however, is the fact that they will be outnumbered by almost as many men as today's women are by men — Financial Times feature.

## China exports acupuncture to Africa

By Lawrence Bartlett  
The Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe — The ancient Chinese art of acupuncture is winning new converts in Africa, drawing patients away from practitioners of conventional western or traditional African medicine.

A front-line crusader for the 2,500-year-old healing technique is Dr. Kuang Yun Pei. The corridor outside his office in a state-run hospital in the black suburb of Chitungwiza is packed daily with blacks and whites.

Some come to the small, energetic man who speaks little English to seek relief from such

ailments as migraine headaches, arthritis and jagged nerves. Others want treatment for obesity or help in breaking habits like nail-biting or chain smoking.

Kuang is one of 10 Chinese doctors working at Chitungwiza Hospital on two-year contracts paid by the Zimbabwe government. The others include conventional specialists such as gynecologists, radiologists and surgeons.

A spokesman for the Chinese embassy in Harare said Chinese doctors were working in many other African countries, and the teams usually included an acupuncturist.

Kuang proudly shows visitors a book of testimonials from previous patients who claim a couple of acupuncture sessions cured ailments that baffled other doctors for years.

Bernadette Nyere, 32, suffered from recurring headaches. She went to Western doctors and to traditional healers, called *n'angas* in Zimbabwe, for three years before she turned to Kuang.

"The *n'anga* gave me herbs, the doctor gave me injections and pills. None of them worked. But my headaches stopped after the first treatment by Dr. Kuang," Mrs. Nyere told the Associated Press.

## Haunted Argentina: A future in australs and asparagus?

National Geographic

WASHINGTON — To get to the southernmost city in the world, writer Bryan Hodgson drove on a rutted dirt road, fishtailing perilously through boggy lowlands, climbing gradually past misty lakes, and then crossing a miniature cordillera whose jagged peaks are the smaller brothers of the Andes.

There, at the brink of the Beagle Channel on the frontier island of Tierra del Fuego, he found a bustling Argentine city, Ushuaia. Its shops were filled with duty-free imported perfumes, liquor, and clothing, and its streets were crowded with young men and women in winter finery. In metal-roofed factories, workers assembled television sets and radios from Japanese kits.

"It was not what I expected at the end of the inhabited world," Hodgson writes in the August National Geographic.

The industries are state-subsidized to attract immigrants. The wage scale is double that of Buenos Aires. The population (average age, 24) has increased 155 per cent since 1979. For the first time, the population is Argentine. The Argentines had been outnumbered by workers from neighbouring Chile, which shares the island with Argentina.

Like Alaska, which it resembles, Tierra del Fuego has been federally administered for most of its history. Its director of economic development, Alberto Camba, feels strongly that it should plan a real economy and start earning its own way.

Much the same might be wished for Argentina as a whole. Three years ago Argentina, one of the world's richest agricultural nations, was bankrupt. Its 30 million people were haunted by an epoch of chaos and military misrule, by the humiliating defeat to Great Britain in the 1882 Malvinas (Falkland Islands) war, and by the horror of their greatest tragedy, the "dirty war" waged from 1975 to 1982.

During that internal conflict, an estimated 10,000 "desaparecidos," disappeared ones, were kidnapped, tortured,

and secretly killed by military and police terror squads as part of the campaign against suspected subversives and dissidents. Two former military rulers have been jailed for life for ordering the hideous inquisition.

A fresh start under the democracy of civilian President Raul Alfonsin, who replaced the disgraced military junta in 1983, brought new hopes for human rights and the economy, and a new currency, the austral, one of which equals 10 million old pesos.

Over the previous five years, banks had showered Argentina with some \$37 billion in development loans, but the generals had spent \$20 billion of this "plata dulce," sweet money, to build South America's most powerful military force.

Many loans were diverted from their stated goals. The government simply printed money to pay its employees and subsidize costly state-owned corporations that produce almost half the nation's goods and services. Speculation had flourished like a disease, while inflation had soared to a 1,000 per cent annual rate.

In 1980 you could send \$1 million to Argentina and earn 60 per cent interest in a year. Hodgson was told by conservative economist Armando Ribas. Speculation had nothing to do with real investment. Capital became completely detached from the economy.

Meanwhile, Argentines secretly sent some \$30 billion to overseas bank accounts, Hodgson writes, "leaving their homeland the richest poor country in the world." The Austral Plan, named for the new currency, froze wages and prices, increased taxes, pledged to reduce public spending, and reduced inflation to 30 per cent.

Argentina, the world's eighth-largest country in area, has always lived from land to mouth. Agricultural exports earn 80 per cent of the country's foreign exchange.

As the world's second-largest exporter of grain and oilseeds (a record 30 million metric tons in 1985), Argentina earns a \$4.5 billion annual surplus.

But a \$50 billion foreign debt

swallows most of that in interest payments alone. And Argentina is facing an agricultural dilemma.

To increase production by 40 per cent, it must invest at least \$2 billion in private farms and about \$3 billion in rail and road transportation, says Jorge H. Cazenave, a private agriculture consultant in Buenos Aires.

"The question is whether we should make this investment in traditional agriculture when there is a growing world surplus of food," he told Hodgson.

Argentina's climate — its summer is winter in the north — could be turned into a profit factor, Cazenave believes. "We have grapes in January, also melons and cherries and peaches," he says. "Asparagus is very valuable... These crops have never been fully developed... But I hope that we will develop them now."

Because former governments forced many first-rate Argentine industries out of business by allowing unlimited cheap imports of electronics and other goods, Argentines have been reluctant to make new investments at home, Hodgson was told by Daniel Friedenthal, one of the country's leading private industrialists.

"Brazil is taking over as Latin America's leading industrialized country — the role we could have had," Friedenthal said. "Our traditional value is to look down on development. Our society still doesn't see success as a goal. Only as a sport."

But this is a time of new beginnings in Argentina, and more than economic changes are on the horizon, perhaps including a new capital city.

Buenos Aires hasn't always dominated Argentina. The country was pioneered from the west by Spanish conquistadores in the 16th century. Buenos Aires was little more than a mudbank when the north western city of Tucuman was founded in 1565.

Tucuman was the site of the signing of Argentina's declaration of independence in 1816.

Starting over in the 1980s may include moving the capital to another remote place, the city of Viedma in the barren tableland of Patagonia.

## Britain sells off its trade-mark red telephone booths

By Sandra Maler  
Reuters

SITTINGBOURNE, England — Foreigners are flocking to Britain to buy old telephone booths.

Britain is selling off the bulk of its 76,000 red telephone kiosks at auctions in villages and towns across the country as part of a 160-million-sterling (\$235-million) scheme to replace them with new, yellow-trimmed, U.S.-style booths.

"It's not history now, but it will be," said Mark Smith after buying a booth for a small English museum.

The national telephone company British Telecom says its red, dome-roofed, glass-paned booths — as much part of the country's image as London's red double-decker buses — are being snapped up by foreigners who ship them across the world to put them to a variety of uses.

Auctioneers say eager customers have included Australians, Belgians, Americans, West Germans, Swiss and Japanese.

But exporting these bulky souvenirs has proved more difficult than expected, with the British and Americans fighting over how the 1,500-pound (680-kg) cast-iron booths should be classified.

While the British describe them as "antiques," U.S. customs officials insist the boxes are fabricated steel in a category called "other other" in customs documents and counted against the European quota of steel allowed in the United States.

The bureaucratic wrangling, however, has not discouraged history collectors or exporters. A recent auction of some 50 red telephone kiosks in the industrial suburbs of Sittingbourne, in the southeastern county of Kent, raised about 15,000 sterling (\$22,000), with booths selling for

between 90 and 600 sterling (\$132 and \$882).

British car exporter Terry Davis bought 21 booths which he said he hoped to sell in the United States, Japan and Australia.

Burkhard Kiehne, from West Germany, said he came specially to Britain to buy a booth for 600 sterling (\$882). He intended taking it back home to Solingen, near Cologne, to help advertise his garden centre.

British Telecom spokeswoman Juliette Harris said the boxes were put to all sorts of uses — installed in nightclubs, and turned into greenhouses, poolside bars, changing rooms, shower cubicles and aviaries.

British Telecom said Britons seemed to be less enthusiastic about the old red booths, which too often failed to provide an efficient public utility.

The telephone company says the old kiosks are too hard to clean, impossible to access in a wheelchair, have doors too heavy for old ladies to open and are more subject to vandalism.

Harris said the modernisation programme would provide new, more efficient and resilient phones, including 10,000 vandal-proof booths that take a pre-paid card instead of coins.

British Telecom also hopes the new booths will result in a profit by the end of the decade.

Vandalism, overfull coin boxes and mechanical failure have resulted in many telephones not working and high maintenance costs.

But Britain is not selling all its red telephone boxes.

It is keeping about 100, which are being listed as buildings of special architectural or historical interest throughout the country. Eight of the booths, designed by architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott as early as 1921, have already been listed by the ministry of environment.

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## Psychics make dire, happy and strange predictions for 1987

By Christopher Hanson  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — With 1987 at hand, leading American psychics have fired a barrage of predictions for the coming year — some dire, some happy, some simply bizarre.

Reporting psychic predictions has become a year-end tradition for the national weekly tabloid newspapers, sold mainly in supermarkets, which keep Americans well-briefed on space alien landings, vampire attacks, bedroom antics of movie stars and other stories overlooked by the mainstream press.

This year's tabloid forecasts are true to form.

The National Globe weekly quotes "leading psychic" Mary Dusina predicting two Jumbo jets

will collide over New York in 1987, causing reforms in air traffic control, and that U.S. and Israeli commandos will team up next year for "a brilliant rescue of U.S. hostages in Lebanon."

James Starr, another seer tapped by the Globe, foresees a West German medical team discovering "a dramatic new arthritis cure involving simple injections."

According to Starr, the ghost of actor Richard Burton will appear on stage during a New York production of Hamlet and the talking image of Christ will mysteriously pop up on television during a broadcast of the Super Bowl Football Championship, asking the nations of the world to seek peace.

Starr also predicts actor James

Garner will face "national ridicule" when he reveals he was abducted by space aliens and flown around the universe for three months.

Psychic Frances Cannon predicts "hidden secret formulas by Albert Einstein will be found and developed into a new defence weapons system" while her colleague, Leah Lusher, foresees archeologists finding dinosaurs in a hidden South American jungle valley.

Psychics quoted in the Examiner weekly newspaper, one of the Globe's arch-rivals, predict that in 1987:

— Iran's anti-U.S. spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini will die and be replaced by pro-American leaders.

— Leftist governments in Cuba and Nicaragua will collapse after

the death of Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

— New seed grains that produce huge harvests will be discovered and end famine in Africa and Asia. Dramatic cures for AIDS and other fatal diseases will also be developed.

— A U.S. political messiah will emerge, win presidential nominations of both Democratic and Republican parties in 1988 and as president usher in a new age of peace and prosperity.

Weekly World News, a tabloid which often quotes obscure Eastern bloc scientists, reported exclusively this month that East German researchers have developed a "computer-driven robot" soothsayer.

According to the news, the robot has predicted that Moscow

will establish a free market economy in the Soviet Union after the assassination of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in 1988.

The paper says the robot has also forecast that the ruins of the lost continent Atlantis will rise from the North Atlantic after a big earthquake, the moon will collide with a huge meteor and be reduced to half its present size, and "a long-forgotten race of super-intelligent humans will descend from the mountains of Tibet" to aid mankind.

Psychics quoted on a news broadcast of Washington television station WRC predicted President Reagan would resign due to the Iran arms scandal, Vice President George Bush would become president, and Castro

would be ousted in 1987.

The accuracy record of past year-end psychic predictions in the tabloids is not exactly dazzling.

Soothsayers predicted in recent years that within the year actress Bo Derek would have a test-tube baby, actress Elizabeth Taylor would marry Prince Rainier of Monaco, U.S. scientists would develop a magic pill to cure cancer, and the air force would admit it had an alien spaceship hidden in a desert hangar. None of these events came to pass.

But before dismissing this year's predictions, bear in mind that eight out of ten psychics tapped by the National Inquirer in 1973 predicted President Richard Nixon would resign in 1974 due to the Watergate scandal. He did.

## World will have 6 billion people by 2000

By Randolph Schmid  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Four new babies are born somewhere on earth every second, a rate that is expected to help push the planet's population to 6.2 billion by the year 2000, the Census Bureau reports.

The bureau's World Population Profile: 1985, published Sunday (Dec. 21) anticipates growth of 1.3 billion people between 1985 and 2000.

"Approximately four persons were born each second in 1985; this is expected to increase to four and one-half births per second by the year 2000," the bureau reported. And even subtracting deaths, the world gains between 2 and 3 new people every second, the figures in the study show.

This rapid growth "dramatically underscores the need to redouble population assistance for the Third World," said Werner Fornos, president of the private Population Institute.

Efforts to stem population growth in the next few years will have "monumental consequences for environment, resources, energy, employment and the quality of life on this planet," said Fornos, who has been sharply critical of the U.S. government for reducing international population assistance programs.

The United States reduced international population assistance earlier this year, citing allegations that some countries — primarily China — were using

coercive tactics to get parents to have fewer children.

The census study comes a day after a private research group reported that changes in world population are threatening to trap the poorer nations in a cycle of rapid population growth and dwindling resources.

"In just over half the world, time is running out in the effort to slow population growth by reducing birth rates," said Lester R. Brown and Jodi L. Jacobson of

Nearly three-quarters of the people in the world live in the 20 largest nations, the study noted. Those nations and their estimated 1985 and 2000 populations, in millions, are:

Country	1985	2000
China	1,037	1,189
India	768	1,015
Soviet Union	278	311
United States	239	268
Indonesia	173	227
Brazil	140	195
Japan	121	129
Nigeria	103	159
Bangladesh	101	143
Pakistan	99	149
Mexico	80	113
West Germany	61	59
Vietnam	60	85
Italy	57	58
Philippines	57	75
United Kingdom	56	58
France	55	58
Thailand	52	65
Turkey	51	69
Egypt	49	71

the Worldwatch Institute.

"More and more, the choice will be between a vigorous family planning programme or declining living standards," they said in the study, "Our Demographically Divided World," published Saturday (Dec. 20).

J. Joseph Speidel of the private Population Crisis Committee said census figures and other studies show that the majority of growth and urban crowding are occurring in the poorer developing nations.

The census study projected that the world's population will reach 6.2 billion by the turn of the century. The world's population has nearly doubled since 1950 when it was 2.6 billion the study showed.

Both birth and death rates have declined, but death rates fall faster than birth rates, allowing the number of people in the world to continue to grow, the bureau said.

There were about 4.9 billion people in the world in mid-1985, the report said. Thus, even with similar annual growth rates, there were 38 million people added in 1985 and 79 million added in 1986.

By 2000 the world's population will generally be better educated, more urbanised and older than today, there will be sharp differences from country to country, the study says.

Sub-Saharan Africa currently has the world's highest rate of growth at 3 per cent per year, the bureau reported. At that rate the population of the region will double in 23 years, the study said.

## Computers used for medical treatment in Third World

By Jim Fuller

WASHINGTON — Doctors have developed a lap-size computer to help provide medical treatment to millions of people living in remote areas of developing countries hundreds of kilometres from the nearest clinic.

Health care in developing countries may also benefit from recent advances in high-resolution television and computer-controlled robotics. A new field called telemedicine uses such technology to transmit detailed medical pictures by satellite to a television screen that can be viewed for diagnosis by doctors located hundreds of kilometres from the patient.

Dr. Chandler Dawson, professor of ophthalmology at the University of California-San Francisco, has developed a computer programme to recommend treatment for eye diseases and has adapted the programme to a miniature computer for use by primary health care workers in developing countries.

Dawson says the computer programme, developed in collaboration with computer scientists at Rutgers University, poses questions to the health care worker about a patient's condition and then comes up with a recommendation, either for a particular type of treatment for minor problems or for referral to a local "clinic" for more serious problems.

Although health care workers in developing countries often do not have the equivalent of a secondary school education, Dawson anticipates that 75 to 70 per cent of the medical cases will be treatable by the health care worker immediately.

"Our emphasis is really on what to do about the problem, not on the diagnosis," Dawson says. "A diagnosis would require a much more elaborate programme. We are just trying to direct health care

workers on what immediate actions they have to take."

Dawson says treatable eye problems range from minor infections, which can be treated with antibiotics, to itching due to allergies. More serious problems would be referred to health care clinics for more intensive drug therapy, surgery, or prescription glasses.

The most serious problems include the world's major blinding eye diseases — trachoma, an infection caused by bacteria; onchocerciasis, a parasitic infection common in tropical areas; vitamin A deficiency; and cataracts.

According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, there are at least 28 million blind people worldwide, with over 80 per cent of them living in developing countries. Doctors report that as much as three-quarters of the blindness in developing countries could be prevented or cured.

Dawson says that his portable computer programme has already been tested in hospitals in the United States, where it performed well in recommending treatment for about 250 emergency cases involving eye problems. The computer programme is now being tested with health care workers in Tunisia and is being studied by ophthalmologists in Egypt.

"In Tunisia the primary health care people have been very enthusiastic about it," Dawson says. "They're really taken with the idea. They're a country that's taking off industrially, so they appreciate computers."

Each year Dawson travels to Egypt and Tunisia to help set up eye care centres in the countryside. Dawson has conducted clinical trials of antimicrobial therapy for trachoma among school children in the two African countries. Trachoma, one of the most serious eye problems in the world, is a

potentially blinding disease that can be successfully treated with drugs.

Dawson says ophthalmologists at the Leonard Wood Memorial Hospital, on the island of Cebu in the Philippines, are adapting his computer programme to help treat eye problems caused by leprosy. An estimated 15 million people have leprosy worldwide, and one million are blind from the disease.

"We are trying to adapt the computer programme specifically for use by nurses and doctors in a leprosy hospital setting," Dawson says. "People with leprosy have lost sensation in their eyes, so if their eye gets scratched they don't know it, it can get infected, and they can go blind. Most of this blindness can be prevented by some fairly simple procedures."

The use of the portable computer programme in developing countries is being funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the World Health Organisation. At present the programme is available in English into Arabic for use in Egypt.

Dawson says district hospitals in developing countries may eventually be able to use a new technique called "telemedicine," in which doctors practise medicine at a distance from their patients by studying images and information displayed on a television screen. One of the latest advances in this area, the so-called "telepathology" system, utilises satellite communications and a motorised microscope attached to a video camera and a computer.

In a demonstration of the system at the Communications Satellite Corporation last August, a pathologist for the first time was able to make an actual diagnosis from a microscopic tissue sample whose televised image was transmitted about 3,000 kilometres by satellite communication. — U.S. Information Agency.

## Indian English off at a tangent

By Robert Mahoney  
Reuters

NEW DELHI — What would English speakers make of this?

"Eve-teaser nabbed". Or how about "Miscreants abscond after bank dacoity"?

If you've ever been to the Indian sub-continent such newspaper headlines will hold no mystery.

A man was arrested for indecent assault, and thieves escaped after a bank hold-up.

This is Indian English, with its own distinct and slightly archaic flavour, but English nonetheless.

It is widely regarded as one of the more useful legacies of more than 200 years of British colonial rule — a link between a myriad of regional dialects and vital for India in international politics, commerce and technology where English is the working language. That is the theory anyway.

But at least one prominent academic believes Indian English is in danger of becoming unintelligible outside the sub-continent.

Language professor Mahavir Prasad Jaim of the Indian Institute of Technology has caused uproar among linguists and teachers because of his scathing criticism of the English language teaching establishment.

"We are using English words in contexts and meanings which are appreciably different from those in British and North American English," he told Reuters.

"It is perfectly acceptable for us to add our own words to a borrowed language... but we are distorting the whole cohesive syntax, the very structure of English, in a major way," he said.

"I feel Indian English could become unintelligible."

Few linguists interviewed by Reuters went as far as this but many agreed that Indian English was changing, becoming simpler

in structure — Pidgin English — and acquiring dialect forms.

Some changes are so drastic as to make the language sometimes barely recognisable as English, Jain said.

Three years ago former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi rallied against falling standards of English after she could not understand a speech by an Indian delegate at an international conference.

"Much of the problem stems from an antiquated education system where learning English involves studying passages from Shakespeare or Ruskin," explained a Delhi teacher.

Indian schools have gone on teaching the English they were given by the British last century while English in the rest of the world has moved on.

Newspapers, the most important medium for spreading English, are cluttered with Victorian words and hoary literary and historical references.

Words like timepiece for clock, looking-glass for mirror, and thrice for three times, are common.

In crime reports murder victims are rarely killed but "done to death." Police might then "give hot chase" and "aab" the "desperadoes" who perpetrated the deed, doubtless in pursuit of "loot."

Some phrases and expressions are simple translations from Hindi or other Indian languages.

A caller to an office might be told by a "babu" (clerk) that the person he wishes to see is "not on his seat" but if the caller would leave his "good name" he will "do the needful."

A letter to the prime minister quoted by his press adviser begins by apologising for taking up Gandhi's time.

"We consider our pious duty for pardon for taking burden liberty while putting forward our suave-

submission taking away few precious moments of these times overburdened with various other more important national as well as international problems being dealt with the highest order of perspicuousness, a rare evergreen divine gift adorned on his excellency."

Part of the reason for such stilted language is that Indian English is a dialect where the gap between the written and spoken word is at its narrowest. This is partly because most Indians had no contact with the British whose language they adopted except through books.

Even today contact with the English-speaking world through travel, publications, film and records is much lower here than in many other non-English speaking countries, teachers said.

Jain believes that the standard of English of middle and lower level students is falling as the literary-based language they study is difficult to grasp and irrelevant to their needs.

The standard among India's educated elite remains high and is probably rising, he said.

Such people send their children to English-medium private and Christian convent schools to learn the language they will need to run the country's administration, businesses and universities.

About 15 million Indians, two per cent of the population, read English and many more understand essential words.

Jain and many other teachers interviewed agreed that there is little prospect of improvement while a conservative higher education establishment continued to produce teachers nurtured on the same authors as their forefathers.

Or as they might have put it: They are seeing no amelioration until a new broom sweeps the halls of academe.

## Lesotho turns on the taps for thirsty South Africa

Lesotho is helping South Africa by supplying water to the Transvaal industrial heartland. There are benefits for Maseru, as Jim Jones, recently in the enclave, reports.

THE formal signing of an agreement on the four billion rand (\$1.8 billion) highlands water project in Maseru, capital of Lesotho, has ended almost 30 years of political wrangling. The project will bring water from Lesotho to South Africa's increasingly thirsty industrial heartland, diverting the headwaters of the Orange and Caledon rivers from Lesotho's Maluti Mountains northwards to the Vaal River.

The 20-year project, in mountainous country which is almost inaccessible to large construction machinery, involves building six dams — four of which will be higher than any others in southern Africa — about 250 kilometres of tunnels and more than 300 kilometres of roads.

The first phase of the project due to be completed by 1995, is the construction of a dam at Katse in Lesotho and a 50 kilometre tunnel to carry water through the mountains to the so-called Sentelina Pond, from where it will be pumped to the new Tihaka dam and hydroelectric power station before being delivered into South Africa.

Lesotho's share of the cost of

this phase of the project is estimated at about 1.2 billion rands and will be borrowed under the auspices of the World Bank.

South Africa, which is effectively excluded from international capital markets, will finance domestically the 250 million rand cost of those parts of the project falling within its borders.

As the first sections of the project progress, work will start on construction of a dam at Moshale and tunnels to carry water from one of the tributaries of the Orange River to Katse.

The first of the contract, 100 million rand worth of design, survey and geotechnical work, has been put out for tender or is under way. Contracts for the remainder of phase one are expected to be put out for international tender, early next year.

Phases two and three of the project will start once phase one is complete and include dams at Tsoelike, Moshale, as well as connecting tunnels to join up with the dam at Katse.

When the project is completed in the early years of the next century, about 2.2 billion cubic metres of water will be delivered

each year into the Vaal River system to flow to the dams and reservoirs of the southern Transvaal.

Apart from providing water to the industrial areas of the southern Transvaal, where longer-term economic development is restricted by water availability, the highlands water project will provide Lesotho with all of its electrical power needs and remove the country's almost total reliance on power from the South African grid. In addition, construction of the roads needed to give access to the various dam sites will open up the mountainous centre of Lesotho.

The South Africans believe that this additional water availability will encourage industrial decentralisation, although regional economists argue that water projects over the next half-century or so will have to be designed to carry water to the southern Transvaal, which is the subcontinent's most economic industrial concentration.

Plans are being mooted to tap water at the confluence of the Chobe and Zambezi rivers in northern Botswana to deliver up to 2.4 billion cubic metres of water a year to South Africa. Getting that project off the ground, however, will involve far greater

### HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT

**PHASE 1A**  
The construction of KATSE dam and a 4m wide, 50km long transfer tunnel through the Drakensberg to Sentelina pond

**PHASE 1B**  
Construction of the MOHALE dam and 50km Mohale tunnel

**PHASE 2**  
Construction of the MASHAL dam and a 20km tunnel

**PHASE 3**  
Construction of TSOELIKE dam to feed the Maseru reservoir through an underground pump station and connecting tunnels

0 25 Miles  
0 40 Km

shifts in relationships between South Africa and Zambezi basin countries — Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Mozambique — than were necessary for the highlands water project.

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority, which is responsible for the Lesotho side of the project, says talks are in progress to secure funding from the World Bank, the EEC and the U.K.'s Overseas Development Association. — Financial Times news feature.

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# Amman Plaza—a new 5-star landmark in Amman

By Rana Sabbagh

AMMAN — Six weeks after its official opening by His Majesty King Hussein, the Amman Plaza Hotel will on Thursday open its glass and brass doors to the public.

Thursday's soft-opening of the JD 14 million hotel will be celebrated with a special New Year's Day buffet, leaving the gala ceremony for the grand opening in about five months.

The lavishly-furnished and equipped hotel, which will join the capital's four other existing five-star Grade A hotels, aims at building itself into "a symbol of ultimate luxury and distinction at reasonable prices."

The hotel's management, the Trust House Forte (THF) group of Britain, says it will seek to cater to a segment of hotel clientele which it sees as not being reached before in Jordan.

"We are aiming at commercial and financial bodies all over the world, international conferences

of a certain calibre which we feel we will be able to attract to Jordan because of the facility we have and worldwide touristic groups and clients from within the country," says Mr. Louis Caviezel, the hotel's general manager.

Entering a fierce competition market at a time when tourism into the country has dropped by eight to 10 per cent, Mr. Caviezel believes that the hotel's success will not be based on its operational performance for the first or second year. "The hotel's success will be judged from within the standards it has created and the market it has been able to penetrate," continues the hotel's chief executive, a Swiss German who was assigned by the THF to operate the hotel.

Hotel officials say 95 per cent of the hotel's 270 staff members are Jordanian, many of whom have some of the best expertise in hotel management and in every field related to the successful running

of a hotel of international standards which has to cater to a wide variety of tastes and likes. Other employees joined the Amman Plaza after working in other five-star Grade A hotels in Jordan and in the region, the officials say.

Mr. Caviezel himself is a well-respected figure in the international hotel industry and has been for the past 23 years holding key executive positions in the THF group, according to the officials. One of his commendable achievements was organising, rehabilitating and successfully opening three deluxe hotels in the Bermuda islands.

There is little doubt among officials of the Housing Bank, which owns the hotel, and the hotel's officials that the man at the helm and the Jordanian staff are professionally capable of steering the 265-bedroom hotel, with its range of 35 junior and deluxe, suites, and two presidential and two royal quarters.

Although the present argument

amongst concerned officials and the local hotel sector centres on why yet another five-star hotel should open in Amman at a time when other similar institutions are achieving an annual maximum average of between 45 to 50 per cent in occupancy rates, Mr. Caviezel and his staff are highly optimistic that the hotel will be doing very well.

"There has always been a pattern of ups and downs. Therefore, you cannot base the esteem of a project of this size on the occupancy rates of other local hotels. Otherwise, you'll never be opening a hotel," Mr. Caviezel says.

Commenting on arguments against the hotel's opening at such a hard time, when global and regional recession has reached its peak, the hotel's chief executive says: "I would like to answer the argument with another question. What is to be gained from keeping a hotel — once completed — closed?"

The general manager believes that the Amman Plaza is not a one-year project and was not built because its owners thought there was a shortage of accommodation.

"It was set up as a long-term investment project which will provide ultimate luxury at reasonable prices," explains Mr. Caviezel, whose company became involved in the project in 1982.

Ever present in the management's mind is the existing situation in Jordan which is very similar to the rest of the world. "Therefore, we will provide the right service at the right price," Mr. Caviezel maintains.

Describing the Amman Plaza as a "tremendous and beautiful project," he says that owners had felt the country needed a hotel of this kind and "we are here to provide a luxurious and distinguished service at the right price."

Adding advantage to the hotel's high-standard management and employees is its very suitable commercial location, as well as its extravagant exterior and interior design which was designed by the local firm, Dar Al Handaseh, and furnished by West Germany's Heinz Matfield, the hotel officials say.

Situated on a built-in-area of 45,049 square metres — including a 1,008 square-metre health club — the building's overall architectural design is intrinsically Arab Islamic and there is a feeling of spaciousness everywhere.

The furniture, be it in the rooms, suites, main lobby or restaurants, is extremely rich, classy and comfortable. Hundreds of hanging lights shining through cut crystal mounted on solid brass adorn the hotel's facilities. Vast expanses of walls and floors in beautiful white carrara marble greet the guest all over the place and probably the most impressive is the hotel's main entrance and very spacious lobby to which a rectangular-shaped fountain pool adds an air of tranquility and relaxation.

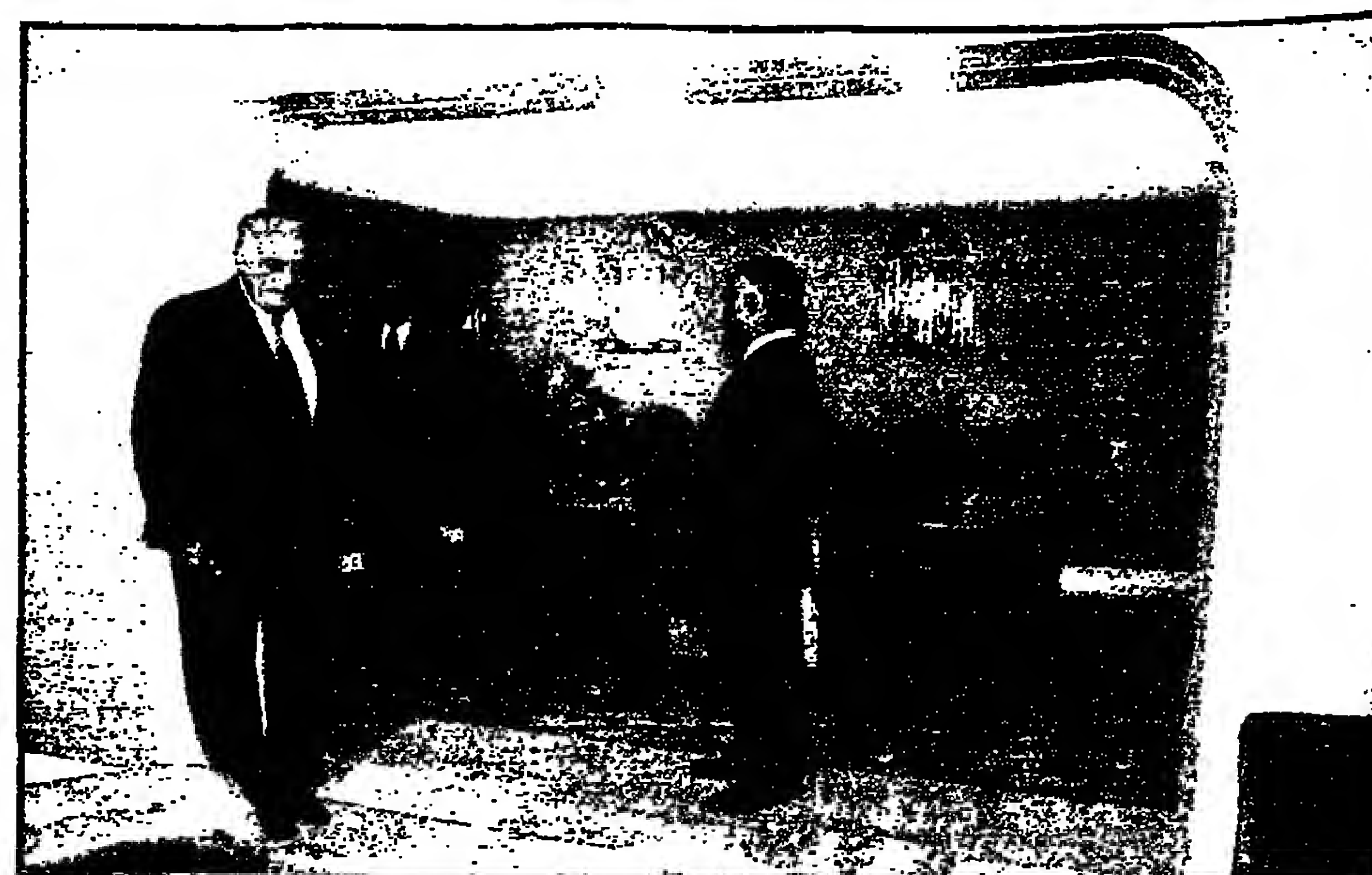
In addition, there are skylights and plenty of greenery decorating the patio's balconies, adding a touch of beauty and vigour to its interior.

The facilities and services that the 578-bed hotel will offer to its guests include central air conditioning with individual thermostats in each guest room, colour television, four-channel music, automatic wake-up system, two-channels of in-house movies day and night, 24-hour room service, a mini-bar, a large dressing area and all other luxuries of a deluxe hotel.

Rest rooms and cloak rooms are available in all major seating areas. The cutlery and crockery in the coffee shop are elegant and expensive in Sheldon Sheffield silver and Baucher china, especially made for the Amman Plaza.

Apart from the in-house services for guests, the Amman Plaza also has a coffee shop which can seat up to 120 people, a street cafe (Al Rawak), a formal 80-seat international gourmet restaurant (Andalucia), an authentic Japanese restaurant (Fujiyama), a supper club (The 1000 Nights), the Al Nadeen lobby bar, the main pub (Abu Al Nawwas) and the grand ball room which can seat up to 280.

The grand ball room can be divided into smaller areas to seat conferences and a professional



His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai with Mr. Zuhair Khoury, chairman of the Housing Bank which owns the new Amman Plaza Hotel, on the occasion of the formal opening of the hotel by the King on Nov. 13.

sound system, with six separate instant translation booths, has been added to the facility. Adjacent to the grand ball room are a VIP lounge, a VIP banquetting room and a small meeting area. There are other conference rooms with extremely elegant furniture and comfortable facilities.

In addition, there is a swimming pool with a side-pool terrace that could be used for summer barbecues, sports, recreational facilities and a very modern health-care club, and a 12-chamber shopping arcade are also available.

## Two-stage opening

Due to interior design reasons, the Amman Plaza will undergo a two-stage opening, as Mr. Mazen Kanaan, the hotel's sales department director, explains. The first stage, or the "soft-opening" which will take place Thursday, includes operating 120 bedrooms, the coffee shop and all other facilities excluding the Japanese restaurant and the street cafe. The grand opening is set towards the end of the first five months with a fully-fledged operation of the hotel's all bedrooms and facilities.

According to Mr. Kanaan, the Plaza, like any other five-star Grade A hotel in Jordan, will aim at attracting local customers by its gourmet Far Eastern, Middle Eastern and European food menus, in addition to floor shows, night entertainments and special ceremonial occasions.

"Like any other hotel, the project should offer people in Jordan a chance to make use of its

various facilities and therefore our price structure will not be extravagant," says Mr. Caviezel.

He adds that the economic recession in the area will always be in the "back of our mind and we have set very reasonable pricing which is compatible with the quality of food and service we're offering."

Mr. Caviezel and Mr. Kanaan say the Amman Plaza will not play the game of competing in price cuts with other local hotels of equal standard.

"We shall stick to our published three categories of rates," says Mr. Caviezel.

"We cannot possibly compete with the price. We have set up rates in accordance with what makes commercial sense and allows us to maintain our standards."

Mr. Caviezel refuses to comment on when he expects the hotel to reach the break-even point between revenues and expenditures. "I will limit myself to my role which is to open the hotel successfully and to place it as a leading institution in Amman."

However, Mr. Zuhair Khoury, chairman of the Housing Bank, says that the project has been carried out after "extensive feasibility studies."

"We will reach the break-even point from the first day our hotel starts operating and I hope we will maintain an average of 70 per cent in occupancy rate."

According to Mr. Caviezel, there are three factors in favour of the hotel's opening which similar hotels did not enjoy during their inauguration.

First, the majority of the hotel's staff members is Jordanian, thus

the hotel has minimised expenditures it would have had to pay for imported employees including their accommodation, air fares and fees for work permits etc. "Had we opened four years ago, we would have had to import between 30 to 40 per cent of our staff members."

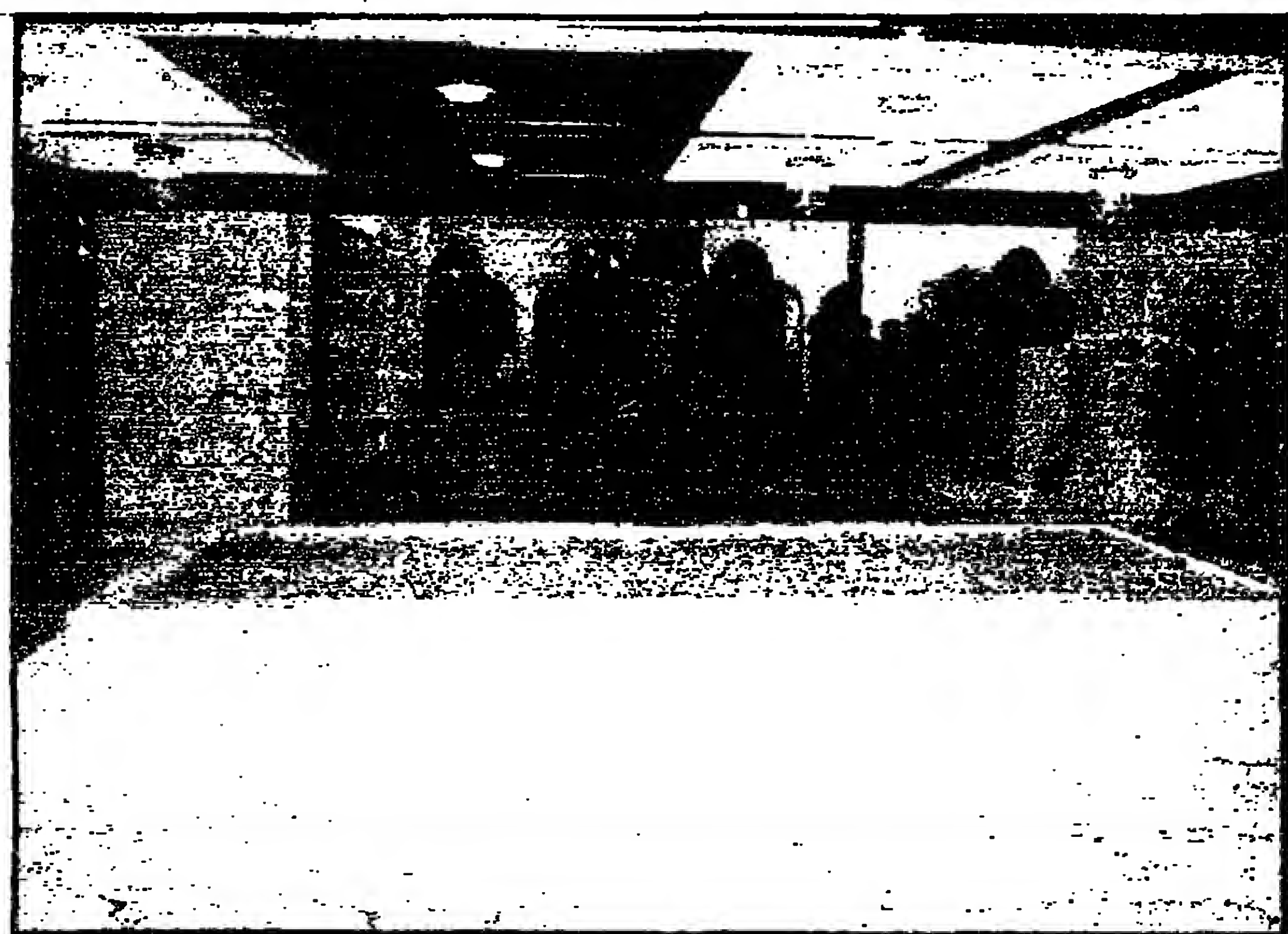
Second, and on average, salaries of employees have not increased in Jordan during the past three years. "All of the experienced staff who have joined us did not get a dinar more than the salary they were getting at other hotels."

Mr. Caviezel also adds that the hotel has created new job openings for a number of the country's qualified but unemployed citizens and has generated business for a number of local suppliers of hotel commodities.

Another factor adding to the cut of the hotel's expenditure costs is the THF's sales offices all over the world. "We will benefit from the corporate advertising and set up and we will advertise the hotel's opening in local and regional newspapers."

"Our main goal is to establish and set the hotel as a symbol of luxury and distinction, by doing so, we would have automatically founded an awareness within the local and international market," stresses Mr. Caviezel.

"The reasons for the success of any hotel are creating the standard and maintaining it, since the competition does not only touch base on the financial and commercial aspects, it is an ongoing battle and one must always strive to provide little extra things to the service."



The main lobby of the Amman Plaza

## Snoring is no joke for millions, but science offers some hope

By Donald J. Frederick  
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — Cartoonists and comedians still get a lot of mileage out of snoring, but for millions of people it's no laughing matter.

Besides straining marriages and endangering friendships, snoring can be deadly serious. A severe form, known as sleep apnea, leaves people exhausted the next day and in extreme cases can cause death.

During periods of sleep apnea, breathing is totally obstructed for periods of a few seconds to more than a minute. Threatened by the lack of oxygen, the sleeper partially awakens, tightens up flabby throat tissues, and, with a loud snoring sound, takes a big gulp of air.

"This can happen as many as 300 times a night," says Dr. David N.F. Fairbanks, a clinical professor who does ear, nose, and throat surgery at George Washington University Hospital in Washington.

### Dangerous malady

"Because the heart beats irregularly during these episodes, people with heart problems and

lung disorders such as emphysema are at serious risk," says Fairbanks. "We think that as many as 3,000 Americans may die each year from the disorder."

Far more prevalent are the millions of people who, because of the problem, never get a good night's rest. They constantly fall asleep on the job or, even worse, behind the wheel of a car or truck. "I never believed my wife when she told me I had a serious sleep problem," one patient told Fairbanks. "Then one day I was taking my Boy Scout troop on a camping trip and started to go off the road. They woke me up just in time."

Dr. Richard E. Waldhorn, a pulmonary specialist at the Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington, says his secretary can usually diagnose people suffering from sleep apnea just by observing them in his waiting room.

"Many of them are so pooped they fall asleep while trying to fill out their medical information forms," says Waldhorn.

In contrast, children suffering from the disorder are usually hyperactive during the day. They become antisocial, get into fights, and have trouble learning and concentrating at school.

"Removing the tonsils and adenoids usually does wonders for these kids," says Fairbanks. "A tremendous change usually takes place after this relatively simple operation, because removal of the bulky structures improves the airways."

### More serious for adults

Curing adults is more difficult, because the disorder is usually caused by more serious airway obstructions.

In normal snoring, the air flow is partially obstructed in the collapsible part of the airway where the tongue and upper throat meet the soft palate and the uvula, the fleshy structure that dangles from the roof of the mouth back into the throat.

The rumbles, wheezes, and growls that drive bed partners to other rooms occur when these structures strike against each other and vibrate during breathing. The noise stops intermittently during sleep-apnea episodes, because the air is blocked by an excess of tissue in one or more of the airway structures.

In the past few years, doctors have perfected a new surgical procedure that widens and stiffens the throat by removing and

tightening tissue in the upper airway.

"It's the equivalent of a tummy tuck or a face-lift where you take out the excess and flabby flesh and tighten up the rest," explains Fairbanks. "This procedure has cured about 80 per cent of the heavy snorers and half the apnea patients."

For people who don't want surgery or haven't been helped by it, there's a new breathing machine. It directs pressurized air through a face mask to keep the upper airway open. But it, too, can send bed partners scurrying to the guest room. It sounds like a vacuum cleaner.

Serious snorers can easily outdo a vacuum cleaner. One man immortalised in the Guinness Book of World Records recorded 87.5 decibels, louder than a diesel engine in the back of a big bus.

But heavy snorers can take some consolation in knowing that many political leaders also have been noisy sleepers. Winston Churchill was recorded doing 35 decibels, and, according to the women who knew him best, Benito Mussolini was an astounding snorer.

### Roosevelt disturbed patients

At least 20 American

presidents are believed to have been loud snorers, says Fairbanks. Theodore Roosevelt probably achieved the most notoriety. During his stay at one hospital, almost every person in his wing asked that the president be moved elsewhere.

Almost half the adults in the United States snore occasionally, and a quarter are habitual. Males and overweight persons make up the majority of snorers, but the noisemaking increases as people get older. By age 60, about 60 per cent of men and 40 per cent of women snore.

Doctors are convinced that most snorers can be helped without drastic surgery. Some of their suggestions:

Exercise daily to develop muscle tone and lose weight; avoid alcoholic beverages within two hours of bedtime; don't take tranquilizers, sleeping pills, or antihistamines before retiring; sleep on the side rather than on the back; tilt the bed by placing bricks or other objects under the bedposts at the headboard.

Since snoring and the lack of sleep have created nightmares for millions, about 140 treatment centres have been founded in the United States.

## Joe Orton, still shocking and mocking from the grave

By Joe Joseph  
Reuters

LONDON — A misfit in society who spent time in prison for obscenely defacing public library books, Joe Orton felt sufficiently flushed with his success as a playwright to boast to a friend in March 1967: "I'm going up, up, up."

Just five months later he was found in his dingy North London bedsit, bludgeoned to death by his homosexual lover Kenneth Halliwell. He was just 34 years old.

After bashing out Orton's brains with a hammer, Halliwell swallowed 22 Nembutal sleeping pills and was himself dead within 30 seconds. He left a note for the police: "If you read his diary all will be explained."

Now, almost 20 years after his death, Orton's diaries have finally been published. John Lahr, who used Orton's papers for his acclaimed 1978 biography of the playwright, has edited the personal records. A film of the biography, "Prick Up Your Ears," has just been completed and will be released next year.

Does Orton have anything left to say? Lahr is biased, but thinks yes. "They are quite simply the frankest and most wide-ranging theatrical diary written this century," he told Reuters.

Orton takes the detritus of life and turns it into something

exceptional." The diaries reveal a young, unbuttoned writer, of poisonous wit, with a sexual swagger which looks overdeveloped even by the standards of London's swinging sixties.

Orton was in the public eye for barely three years and wrote only three full-length plays. But it was enough to secure his reputation as one of the most original and outrageous dramatists Britain has produced.

His first made London theatregoers sit up in their seats in 1964 with "Entertaining Mr. Sloane." The play tells of a brother and sister who agree to cover up their father's murder so they can both continue to share the sexual favours of the murderer.

The public was shocked, amused and instantly converted to Orton's style of marrying prim dialogue to often violent and grotesque action.

The leading British playwright Terence Rattigan hailed it as "the best first play I have seen in 28 years of playwriting."

"Loot," which also swivels on the fate of an inconvenient corpse, earned equally enthusiastic reviews. "What the Butler Saw," his last major work, was the capstone of his dramatic career.

What makes Orton so important, says Lahr, is "that he reinvented the farce form, taking it from a boulevard entertainment



Joe Orton (1927-64)

to a serious statement on life." But the contents of his plays, anarchic as they are, seem timid in comparison with his fevered diary entries.

The diaries span only the last eight months of his life, much of which was spent in Tangier. There is barely a page that is not spiced with his extravagant sexual exploits.

What leaves what might otherwise have been a long-running bedroom farce

peopled by Irish labourers in London lavatories and young Moroccan boys in Tangier hotel rooms, is Orton's honesty, comic imagination and discomfiting attention to detail.

"Orton had willed himself into the role of a rebel outcast: beyond guilt or shame," says Lahr. He "rejected the world of conventional work, conventional sex, and conventional wisdom."

It was typical of Orton to end an account of a homosexual encounter in a dark public lavatory in Holloway, North London, with the observation: "No more than two feet away from the citizens of Holloway moved about their ordinary business."

Whether when returning to his parents' home in Leicester for his mother's funeral, or after fleeing, restless, from one of his plays' first nights, there was always time for casual sex. This was promiscuity in an age before anyone had heard of AIDS.

But gradually through the pages of the diaries, one sees the strain beginning to tell on Halliwell.

As Lahr notes: "While in private he always acknowledged Halliwell's importance to his work, Orton completely edited Halliwell out of the public story of his success."

Once Orton's mentor — they were lovers for 16 years — Halliwell had become an embarrassment to the now feted playwright and could no longer

bear to cower in the shadow of Orton's literary and social glory.

Himself a failure as a writer, he could not cope with Orton's success happy to remain a cosy couple, he resented Orton's philandering while Orton gallivanted about town, Halliwell stayed at home doing the washing.

Without Halliwell "Joe Orton would probably have been an unsuccessful actor," according to Peggy Ramsay, Orton's agency. "Kenneth was of absolute importance."

But literary London, which clutched Orton to its bosom, thought Halliwell an irksome oaf and a bore. Orton either didn't notice that Halliwell was cracking up or didn't care. The later pages of the diaries record a succession of Halliwell's tantrums but reveal a chilling disregard for what brought them on.

"The diaries show Orton's increasing detachment from Halliwell," Lahr told Reuters. "And he wrote them right under Halliwell's nose." Halliwell openly read the diaries.

"Peggy put all his references to sexual matters in code so that no-one would know," said Kenneth Williams, the British actor and a long-standing friend, when the playwright revealed he had started a diary. "I don't care who knows," Orton replied.

In the end it was probably this utter frankness that cost Orton his life.

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## N. Zealand nips French Kiss in exciting America's Cup race

**FREMANTLE, Australia (AP)** — New Zealand came from behind on the final leg Tuesday to nip French Kiss and take a 3-0 lead in their best-of-seven America's Cup challenger semifinal series.

The 13-second victory was clouded by a protest on the final leg when the two boats were even and on port tacks.

New Zealand's Chris Dickson luffed and when French Kiss skipper Marco Pajot tacked, it appeared that his ransom nipped his opponent's boat. Both boats immediately flew protest flags.

The protest will be heard Tuesday night.

In other competition in the challenger semifinals, Stars and Stripes of San Diego defeated the San Francisco-based USA to take a 3-0 lead in the series.

Again it was no contest as skipper Dennis Conner outlasted the radical two-riggered USA.

The fourth races in the semifinals will be Jan. 2.

The usually flawless crew of the Kiwis fell apart twice during the race and it almost proved disastrous.

At the end of the first spinnaker run, New Zealand's crew had trouble getting the spinnaker down as it wrapped around the forestay. The Kiwis still managed to round the mark ahead by 14 seconds, but it gave French Kiss an

opportunity to pass.

French Kiss led by 23 seconds at the next mark and remained in front until midway on the final leg. Its biggest lead was 24 seconds at the second leeward mark.

New Zealand also had problems attempting to gybe its spinnaker on the final spinnaker run.

The final beat was one of the most exciting races of the entire series.

Kiss went into the final 5.5 kilometre windward leg with a 13-second margin. Dickson immediately started a tacking duel and nibbled away at Pajot's slim lead.

The Kiwis took the lead at the collision when French Kiss tacked away.

Tuesday's thriller is not the first time the Kiwis came from behind to win. In the first series, they came from 50 seconds behind on the last leg to nip French Kiss.

And in the third series they nipped White Crusader and America II on the final lap.

The race between Stars and Stripes and USA was never close. Blackaller had the edge at the

start by one second, but by the time the two boats reached the first buoy and set their spinnakers it was Stars by 40 seconds. At the end of the second beat to weather, Conner had increased his lead to 1:24 and was never threatened during the race.

The famed "Fremantle Doctor" came in stronger Tuesday than in the previous semifinal races. The breezes started at 16 knots, but at the end of the race was blowing between 25 and 27 knots with five-foot seas.

There were no big surprises Tuesday in the defenders' competition.

Kookaburra II, with Peter Gilmour steering, defeated stablemate Iain Murray and Kookaburra III by 50 seconds.

Australia IV defeated Steak'n Kidney by 14 seconds and may have eliminated the boat from the semifinals.

Under the defenders' rules, a boat unable to make the finals must be excused from further racing.

Australia IV leads the defenders with 65 points followed by Kookaburra III with 59. Kookaburra II has 52 points and Steak'n Kidney has 18.

The standings could change, however, because the defenders have four protests to be heard.

## Argentina celebrates 6 months of glory

**BUENOS AIRES (R)** — Argentine soccer fans enter 1987 still basking in glories of their last May when their embattled national team embarked on the World Cup trail.

Manager Carlos Bilardo faced mounting criticism of a side whose style and results inspired no confidence. Only the faith of Argentine Football Association President Julio Grondona kept him at the helm.

Diego Maradona's form was erratic as he struggled with a leg injury that cast doubts over his very participation in Mexico, and the domestic game was in a sorry state, marred by poor matches, crowd violence and dwindling gates.

Yet, six months ago this week Maradona lifted the World Cup in Mexico City's Aztec Stadium after inspiring Argentina to a 3-2 victory over West Germany in the final.

Maradona, captain and executioner supreme, has since been hailed around the globe for his brilliance, winning several national and international awards as both Footballer and Sportsman of the Year.

In Argentina people have poured into cinemas around the country since the release on Christmas Day of the official

World Cup film "Heroes" and applauded for the second time his goals and Argentina's dressing room celebrations following its win.

Argentine success at club level has also been acclaimed. Three players little known outside Argentina in January ended 1986 with four medals after winning every championship they entered.

Goalkeeper Nery Pumpido, defender Oscar Ruggeri and midfielder Hector Enrique did not play in the team which helped Argentina qualify for Mexico in June 1985. Indeed Enrique was not even in the squad.

But this year the trio helped River Plate take the first division championship, the South American Libertadores Cup for the first time and the World Cup Championship in Tokyo, and also picked up medals as World Cup winners.

Uruguayan World Cup star Enzo Francescoli was the kingpin in River's runaway triumph in the First Division.

He was transferred to Racing Paris in July and doubts that Hector Veira's team could win the elusive South American title, the club's great obsession, equalled those about the chances of the Argentine team in the World Cup

finals.

But Veira succeeded where more illustrious predecessors such as Angel Labruna and Alfredo Di Stefano failed in steering River Plate, one of the great South American clubs, to its first continental triumph.

Veira and his players bagged as many headlines at home as Bilardo, Maradona, Jorge Valdano and Jorge Burruchaga after their incredible run of form in Mexico.

A fortnight ago, Pumpido, Ruggeri and Enrique ran their fourth lap of honour of the year in Tokyo after winning the "Intercontinental" Club Championship by beating European champion Steaua Bucharest of Romania.

Success has led to a marked increase in attendances at Argentine League matches and Bilardo is expected to sign on for another four years next month.

He has already outlined his plans for the defence of the world title in Italy in 1990 and this month saw his proteges start off on the right foot.

A team of budding internationalists won the South American qualifying tournament for next August's Pan-American games in Indianapolis.

## Arsenal still leads English League but losing ground

**LONDON (AP)** — With half the busy Christmas and New Year programme of league matches completed, Arsenal still leads the English First Division soccer standings. But the familiar threat from Merseyside is beginning to loom ominously.

Arsenal, which went into the holiday period with a five-point cushion at the top of the table, stretched its unbeaten run to 17 matches last Saturday when it celebrated its centenary with a 1-0 victory over Southampton.

Two days previously, the north London side performed poorly but still managed not to lose in a 1-1 draw at lowly Leicester.

But while manager George Graham's disciplined team, a blend of youth and experience, continued to hold on at the top, pressure from below was building up as Everton, champions in 1985, cut Arsenal's lead to four points going into this week's New Year games.

As Arsenal struggled to score the goals that maintained its lead at top, Everton put four past Newcastle, then five past Leicester to surge into second place.

Despite a series of early-season injuries, Howard Kendall's team managed to stay in touch with the leading pack. Now, the side is

virtually back to full strength and is after another league title.

Everton striker Adrian Heath, with 11 goals in his last 10 games, said the crushing victories over Newcastle and Leicester marked the best football his team had played since winning the championship.

"I believe we are back in the same groove," said Heath, who replaced Gary Lineker in Everton's front line after the England international striker's move to Barcelona.

"Some people wondered how we were going to get the goals once Gary had gone," said Heath. "Inside the club, that was never

## Top men tennis players

As ranked by the Association of Tennis Professionals

- |                                    |                              |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Ivan Lendl (Czechoslovakia)     | 11. Brad Gilbert (U.S.)      |
| 2. Boris Becker (West Germany)     | 12. Mikael Pernfors (Sweden) |
| 3. Mats Wilander (Sweden)          | 13. Kent Carlsson (Sweden)   |
| 4. Yannick Noah (France)           | 14. John McEnroe (U.S.)      |
| 5. Stefan Edberg (Sweden)          | 15. Tim Mayotte (U.S.)       |
| 6. Henri Leconte (France)          | 16. Emilio Sanchez (Spain)   |
| 7. Joakim Nystrom (Sweden)         | 17. Martin Jaite (Argentina) |
| 8. Jimmy Connors (U.S.)            | 18. Kevin Curren (U.S.)      |
| 9. Miloslav Mecir (Czechoslovakia) | 19. Anders Jarryd (Sweden)   |
| 10. Andres Gomez (Ecuador)         | 20. Thierry Tulasne (France) |

## Pakistan upsets W. Indies in one-day cricket tourney

**PERTH, Australia (R)** — Mudassar Nazar, better known as an opening batsman than for his gentle medium-pace, was the unlikely bowling hero as Pakistan upset West Indies by 34 runs Tuesday at the start of the one-day cricket tournament here.

Mudassar captured the key wickets of Desmond Haynes, Viv Richards and Gus Logie to help dismiss West Indies for 165 in 46.2 overs. This was in reply to Pakistan's 199 for eight from the full quota of 50 overs.

The one-day tournament, also involving Australia and England who meet on Thursday, is being played as part of a sporting festival in conjunction with the America's Cup yachting. All the matches are being played in Perth with the final on January 7.

Pakistan, beaten 4-1 at home by West Indies in the recent limited-over series, looked to be heading for another defeat when West Indies passed 100 for the loss of only two wickets and with Richie Richardson and Richards going well.

But then Richardson was run out for 38 at 105 and when Mudassar, who had already

disposed of Haynes, sent back Richards for 10 and Logie for seven in quick succession, the innings fell apart.

Mudassar's final analysis was three for 36 which won him the man-of-the-match award. His only rival for the honour can have been teammate Javed Miandad who batted splendidly for his 53 after Richards won the toss and put Pakistan in.

Miandad's main support came from Rameez Raja, the pair putting on 91 in 19 overs for the third wicket. Rameez's 42 included a only boundary as he played a willing second fiddle to Miandad who made his runs from 67 balls.

Pakistan's innings also faded badly with the last six wickets falling for 36.

Trinidadian Tony Gray, rated by Michael Holding as the most promising of the new generation of Caribbean fast bowlers, finished with the best figures of four for 45, while Courtney Walsh took two for 48.

The pair shared the new ball in the absence of Malcolm Marshall, who has ruled unfit with a knee injury, and Joel Garner.

## Korea to adopt summer time to help Olympics

**SEOUL (R)** — South Korea will adopt daylight savings time from next year to help obtain more revenue from the sale of U.S. television rights for the 1988 Seoul Olympics, government officials said Tuesday.

Lee Chang-Gil, a deputy director of the government administration ministry, told Reuters the new system, which would bring forward South Korean time by one hour from early June to early October, is aimed at "saving daylight, promoting efficiency among civil servants and helping the Seoul Olympics."

Exact dates for summer time have yet to be announced.

The National Broadcasting Company, which won the rights to televise the games in the United

States last March, will have to pay between \$300 million and \$500 million to the games' organisers depending on advertising revenue from broadcasts.

The organisers said summer time would help increase the advertising revenue by bringing major events closer to peak viewing time in the United States.

The 13-hour time difference between Seoul and the U.S. east coast had been a major factor affecting negotiations on American TV rights. Seoul officials said many athletic, swimming, gymnastic, boxing and basketball finals would be held in the morning or midday to coincide with prime U.S. viewing time.

The Seoul Olympics will be held from September 17 to October 2.

## NBA roundup

### Cleveland refuses to stay beaten

**NEW YORK (AP)** — After two lopsided National Basketball Association losses and a poor first half against the Atlanta Hawks, the Cleveland Cavaliers got tired of being kicked around.

"You don't keep kicking a dog that's down," Cleveland rookie Mark Price said after the Cavaliers edged the Hawks 107-106. "I think the Hawks might have had an idea that we would be their stepping dog."

Cleveland lost by 19 and 24 points in its previous two games against Atlanta, which has the best record in the Eastern Conference at 20-7.

The Cavaliers also trailed 64-55 at halftime Monday night, but rallied by holding the Hawks to 42 points in the second half.

"I'm really happy with the way we are kids hung in there," Cleveland coach Lenny Wilkens said. "In the second half, we just wanted to tighten up the defence. We covered up whenever they would get a guy open and we began to allow them only one shot."

Rookie centre Brad Daugherty, who missed Cleveland's previous game with back spasms, came back with 19 points and 12 rebounds in 40 minutes against Atlanta.

**Celtics 119, Kings 102**

Larry Bird had 27 points and 11 rebounds as visiting Boston handed Sacramento its worst defeat of the season.

Kevin McHale scored 20 points, the 28th consecutive time in which he has managed at least that many. Centre Robert Parish added 24 points and 11 rebounds and Dennis Johnson had 22 points for the Celtics.

Joe Kleine scored a season-high 17 points for the Kings.

**Bullets 125, Warriors 105**

Washington got 35 points and 11 rebounds from Moses Malone and outscored visiting Golden State 37-14 at the free-throw line. Terry Teagle came off the

bench to lead Golden State with 28 points. Jeff Malone had 23 for Washington.

**Nets 122, Bucks 117**

Mike Gminski had 27 points and 17 rebounds, both season highs, and scored nine points in the final 5:35 as host New Jersey outlasted Milwaukee.

New Jersey, which has won four of five games after a 4-20 start, also got 24 points from Orlando Woolridge and 21 from Tony Brown. Sidney Moncrief and Ricky Pierce each had 21 points for Milwaukee.

**Jazz 109, Spurs 101**

Utah completed the best month in franchise history, as John Stockton had 15 assists and scored nine of his 14 points in the fourth period against San Antonio.

Bobby Hansen led a balanced Utah scoring attack with 18 points, and rookie Dell Curry had a season-high 17. Johnny Dawkins led San Antonio with 19.

## India builds lead over Sri Lanka

**NAGPUR, India (R)** — Mohinder Amarnath and Dilip Vengsarkar scored hundreds as India built a commanding lead over Sri Lanka on the third day of the second cricket test here Tuesday.

At the close India was 324 for three, a first innings lead of 120, with Vengsarkar 115 not out. Amarnath made 131, in the process passing 4,000 test runs.

India resumed at 54 for one and the day's only wickets fell just before lunch when Raman Lamba

drove spinner Asoka De Silva to cover and in the final session when Amarnath was caught at mid-on off Roshan Jurenganthi, also a slow bowler.

Amarnath, who batted cautiously during his stand of 126 with Lamba, became more adventurous when joined by Vengsarkar, the pair adding 173 for the third wicket before being parted shortly before the close.

Amarnath's innings included 14 fours.

For the remainder of the day, Vengsarkar batted with Sunil Gavaskar who dropped down the order after recovering from a fever.

Despite the loss of nearby five hours of play on Sunday because of rain and bad light, India is now strongly placed to win the match and go 1-0 up in the three-match series. Victory would also avenge its heavy defeat a week ago in the first of the one-day internationals in Kanpur.

## Belanov wins footballer of year award

**PARIS (R)** — Igor Belanov, scourge of defences during the World Cup in Mexico, has been voted European footballer of the year in the annual poll organised by the France Football Weekly newspaper.

Belanov, who won the European Cup Winners' Cup with Dynamo Kiev and was a major force in the Soviet Union's impressive display of attacking football throughout the year, became the third Soviet player to be honoured after goalkeeper Lev Yashin in 1963 and Oleg Blokhin in 1975.

A panel of journalists from 26 European countries named England and Barcelona striker Gary Lineker second and Spanish marksman Emilio Butragueno third.

Lineker was top World Cup scorer with six goals and Butragueno was second with five after winning the UEFA Cup with Real Madrid.

Belanov succeeds French captain Michel Platini who had won the trophy for the three previous years but who slipped to 11th place following a low profile season with Juventus and France.

**Sanchez wins Orange Bowl junior tennis**

**MIAMI BEACH, Florida (AP)** — Top-seeded Javier Sanchez of Spain defeated fourth-seeded Al Parker of the United States 6-3, 6-4 to win the boys 18 division of the Orange Bowl International Junior Tennis Championship Monday.

The win on the clay courts at Flamingo Park solidified Sanchez's position as the top junior player in the world.

In the girls 18 division, top-seeded Patricia Tarabini of Argentina defeated second-seeded Bettina Fulco of Argentina, 6-2, 6-2.

In the boys 18 doubles, the second-seeded team of Parker and Murphy Jensen of the United States defeated third-seeded David Wheaton and Jeff Tarango of the United States.

## Sydney-Hobart yacht race won by sloop Ex-Tension

**HOBART (R)** — Sydney sloop Ex-Tension won the Sydney-Hobart yacht race on handicap Tuesday after an agonising five-hour wait while the only boat capable of overtaking it sailed up the Derwent towards the finishing line.

In the end, Impeccable, needing to finish at five minutes past five Tuesday evening to win on corrected time, missed out by 11 minutes. Southern Cross was third on handicap, giving the first three places in the blue-water classic to Australian yachts.

Bermuda-based Bob Bell's Condor took line honours Monday with Rod Muir's 18-year-old wooden maxi Windward Passage second.

Condor completed the race in two days 23 hours 26 minutes 25 seconds, outside the record of two days 14 hours 36 minutes 56 seconds set by U.S. maxi Kialoa in 1975 but only the third boat to finish inside three days.

The overnight favourite for handicap honours, Sydney boat Another Concubine, lost any chance of taking the race after encountering very light winds.

Ex-Tension, the brand new Laurie Davidson production 36-footer, crossed the finish line soon after noon to replace Paladin, the handicap leader up to that point.

At last report 59 yachts had finished the 630-mile race which started from Sydney harbour last Friday, leaving 47 still racing and 17 retired.

## Mandlikova advances, Turnbull upset in Australian tennis

**BRISBANE, Australia (AP)** — Top-seed Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia on Tuesday coasted into the third round of the \$100,000 JASON Women's Tennis Classic, while unseeded American Heather Ludloff upset fourth-seeded Wendy Turnbull of Australia.

Mandlikova, 24, trounced Marie-Cristine Calleja of France 6-0, 6-0 in just 37 minutes to advance to the last 16 of the 56-draw Virginia Slims Series grass court event.

Ludloff, ranked 251st in the world, defeated Turnbull, who is ranked 18th, 6-1, 2-6, 6-1.

The American, who had to play her way through the qualifying tournament, hit a series of fine passing shots in the final set to outlast the 34-year-old veteran.

Other seeds who advanced Tuesday included third seeded Czech Helena Sukova.

Sukova downed Chinese-born American Hu Na 7-6, 6-4 in a tough encounter.

## Norway's Opas wins ski jumping

**OBERSTDORF, West Germany (AP)** — Norway's Vegard Opas squeezed out a tenth of a point lead with two identical jumps of 106.5 metres to score 195.7 points and win the World Cup ski jumping competition here Tuesday.

Second place went to West German Thomas Klauer, with jumps of 105 and 104 metres respectively, scoring 189.5 points.

He was followed by Austria's Andreas Felder who jumped 103 and 103.5 metres to score 191.6 points.

Fourth place went to Gerard Balanche of Switzerland with jumps of 104 and 105 metres for 191.1 points, followed by East German's Ulf Findeisen who jumped 103 and 104.5 metres respectively to score 189.5 points.

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# Harold MacMillan dies at 92

## 'The man who changed the face of post-war Britain'

LONDON (Agencies) — Former British Prime Minister Harold MacMillan, who revived his nation's spirit after Suez and told South Africans 25 years ago to prepare for a "wind of change," has died aged 92, drawing warm tributes from home and abroad.

Mr. MacMillan, who bore the title Earl of Stockton, died peacefully at his home in Sussex, southern England, at 6.20 p.m. (1820 GMT) Monday night surrounded by members of his family.

A giant of 20th century British politics and an international statesman, he had been in poor health following a bout of pneumonia in July.

As Conservative prime minister between 1957 and 1963, Mr. MacMillan changed the face of Britain.

He revived a demoralised nation after the abortive 1956 Anglo-French invasion of Egypt following the nationalisation of the Suez Canal. He presided also over the dismantling of the British Empire in Africa and steered Britain towards a future in Europe.

At home, he presided over a post-war economic boom immortalised in the phrase "you've never had it so good."

He claimed a place in the history books of deconcentration with a landmark anti-apartheid speech to the South African parliament in 1960 in which he said a "wind of change" was blowing through Africa.

His suave, patrician manner won him the friendship of U.S. Presidents Dwight Eisenhower and John Kennedy—who called him regularly during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis for advice—and the grudging admiration of Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk, who served under

Presidents Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson between 1961 and 1969, said Monday night: "Prime Minister Harold MacMillan rendered a great service to Britain and the Western World."

Mr. Rusk added: "Kennedy looked on him as a sort of uncle and adviser. The relationship was very warm and constructive."

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Mr. MacMillan's death left a place no-one else could fill.

"His reputation and standing as a statesman gave him a leading role in the world," she said. "He also left Britain a stronger and more prosperous country than he found it."

David Owen, leader of Britain's opposition Social Democrats and a former British Foreign Secretary, commented:

"Internationally he was the first major politician to warn in his speech in South Africa of the winds of change about the evils of apartheid."

Buckingham Palace said Queen Elizabeth heard the news "with great sadness" and the West German Foreign Ministry commented: "MacMillan was a good friend to West Germany and we regret his death most deeply."

Neil Kinnock, leader of Britain's opposition Labour Party, hailed MacMillan's concern for the poor. MacMillan's political attitudes, which caused him to question Mrs. Thatcher's emphasis on public spending cuts, were coloured by the unemployment he saw in his working-class constituency



Harold MacMillan

between the wars.

"He represented a generation of Tories (Conservatives) who recognised duty and pursued the objective of one nation," Mr. Kinnock said.

On resigning in 1963 Mr. MacMillan said: "I have been a soldier, businessman and politician. When I die they may say 'he was a statesman'."

His family said he would be buried, after a private funeral, alongside his wife, Dorothy, in the family plot in a Sussex churchyard. A memorial service will be held in London.

Britain's four living ex-prime ministers paid fond tribute Tuesday to Mr. MacMillan.

Harold Wilson called Mr. MacMillan "an old sparring partner." Alec Douglas-Home remembered his political mastery. Edward Heath called him "delightful to work with" and James Callaghan praised his compassion for Britain's jobless and disadvantaged citizens.

Douglas-Home, 83, said Mr. MacMillan's personal friendship with the late U.S. president Kennedy was crucial to Anglo-American relations. "It was almost a paternal relationship," he said. "Jack

Kennedy appreciated this very much. He appreciated Harold MacMillan's sense of perspective and they got on like a house on fire."

Mr. Douglas-Home, now Lord Home, took over the premiership when Mr. MacMillan resigned in 1963 and held the office for one year. He was succeeded by Mr. Wilson when the Labour Party ousted the Conservatives in October 1964.

Mr. Wilson, 70 and now Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, fondly recalled debating against Mr. MacMillan in the House of Commons and said: "I don't think that apart from Winston Churchill I have ever seen anyone reach to the heights of Harold... he was great fun, but absolutely dead serious."

Former Prime Minister Edward Heath, who lost the Conservative Party leadership to Mrs. Thatcher in 1975, said that Mr. MacMillan "used one of the most creative minds in British politics in the cause of national unity and to improve the well being of all his fellow citizens."

Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, spiritual leader of the state Church of England, said Mr. MacMillan "was a man of personal faith and unshakeable belief in Christian values. He spoke with the courtesy and authority of a Christian statesman."

Edward Du Cann, who was a treasury minister under Mr. MacMillan, said: "The country has lost a great parliamentarian and the people of Britain have lost a great servant. He was a man of imagination and a man of courage."

Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, said MacMillan was "probably the most skillful" of Britain's nine prime ministers since World War II.

# U.N., under pressure, deletes U.S. portion of film on homeless

NEW YORK (AP)—In a move that has surprised and angered advocates for the homeless, the United Nations quietly persuaded the United States to drop segments about New York from a film on world homelessness.

The film, part of U.N. observances of the 1987 year of shelter for the homeless, was to include footage of two New York projects that provide housing for the poor and homeless.

The New York segments were deleted last March after a political officer at the United States mission to the U.N. warned that some members of Congress might object, a spokeswoman for the mission, Rose Bernstein, said Monday.

Ms. Bernstein said U.S. officials felt the film overlooked those people who are mentally ill or homeless by choice. The problem, she said, was "not that it was distorted, but what it was incomplete."

However, George Leclerc, director of the Radio and Visual Services Division of the U.N. Department of Public Information, said, "the U.S. mission was concerned that it would be unfair to show the United States as a homeless country, which was not at all our goal."

The decision to drop the U.S. segments brought sharp reaction from leaders of the two organisations that were to be portrayed in the film, Habitat for Humanity and the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board.

"I think it's a little preposterous," said Rebecca Reich, a spokeswoman for Urban Homesteading, a group which

helps low-income people acquire city-owned property.

"My impression was that the U.S. mission was trying to deny that there were homeless people and keep it a secret," Ms. Reich said.

"I must say... it sounds a little strange," said Millard Fuller, executive director of Habitat for Humanity. "It seems to me to be a little ridiculous to say that people are on the streets just because they want to be."

Fuller's group gives poor and homeless people the carpentry skills they need to rehabilitate dilapidated housing.

Habitat's New York director, Robert Derocker, said a U.N. filmmaker contacted him early this year about shooting footage at the organisation's project on the lower east side of Manhattan. But Derocker said he never heard from the filmmaker again.

Ms. Reich said a production group was already filming at a urban homesteading project last April when she was told that objections had been raised. In November, she said, she learned that the segments involving her organisation had been scrapped.

Mr. Bernstein said the U.S. mission was not opposed to any depiction of Habitat for Humanity or the urban homesteading project. "They were both very good projects and we had no problem with that," she said.

She also insisted that the mission did not explicitly veto the film. "We did not object. We told them what we thought the reaction would be from... certain segments of the American public and from Congress," she said.

# Reagan honours Voyager crew

LOS ANGELES (R)—President Reagan honoured the crew and designer of the history making Voyager aircraft before leaving for his traditional New Year's retreat in the desert resort of Palm Springs.

Pilot Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager and designer Burt Rutan were awarded Presidential Citizens Medals for making aviation history by flying around the world non-stop without refuelling.

"You refueled us all that

aviation history is still being written by men and women with the spirit of adventure and daring-do," Mr. Reagan said at a brief ceremony.

After the brief ceremony, the president's first public speaking appearance in almost a week, Mr. Reagan and his wife Nancy left for the Palm Springs estate of millionaire publisher Walter Annenberg where they have spent each New Year for almost two decades.

# Najibullah: Afghanistan arranging talks with rebels

MOSCOW (R)—Afghan leader Najibullah was quoted Tuesday as saying Kabul was prepared to talk with Afghan rebels who have been fighting the government for the past seven years.

In an interview with the Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda, he said his main accomplishment so far had been to strengthen the cohesion of his party. Mr. Najibullah came to power as Afghanistan's Communist Party leader in May.

He said the new approach to the role of the party was the key to resolving the major problems confronting Afghan society, above all the attainment of peace and tranquility.

"We are actively seeking a way to national compromise and are ready for it, including the creation of a government of national unity," he said.

"State organs throughout the country are not only fighting the bandits, but also arranging dialogue with them."

Najibullah, who earlier this year complained of factionalism within the party, but now said it was being overcome, has stressed the need for national unity to end the Afghan conflict.

Pravda said his strategy for the party included efforts to reduce the influence of clans and family ties.

Najibullah said 13,000 rebels had gone over to the government side in the past year, and appealed to the people of countries in the

region to join in the search for a peaceful solution.

"We have a stake in the political settlement of the problem around Afghanistan," he said.

"By extending a hand of friendship to the peoples of Pakistan, Iran and other countries of the region, we are saying: Let's resolve the problem not by force of arms, but in a peaceful way."

Many of the Western-backed rebels fighting Kabul operate from bases in Pakistan and Moscow has also accused Iran of aiding the guerrillas.

The Soviet Union, which intervened militarily in Afghanistan in December 1979, has an estimated 110,000 troops in the country helping the Afghan army fight the rebels.

Meanwhile, a Pakistani police officer and his civilian driver were blown apart and five other people were injured Tuesday by two bombs in Peshawar near the Afghan border, police said.

They blamed the attacks, the latest in a series in the area over the past year, on agents sent by the authorities in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Police assistant sub-inspector Nigab Shah and his driver were examining an impounded car at police station when a powerful blast ripped the vehicle open.

Witnesses said the explosion scattered parts of the two men's bodies over a wide area, destroyed the car and badly damaged seven other vehicles parked nearby.

# Solzhenitsyn's wife says dissident dying in prison

NEW YORK (R)—A Soviet dissident held in solitary confinement for his human rights activities is close to death, the wife of exiled Soviet author Alexander Solzhenitsyn was quoted as saying.

Natalia Solzhenitsyn, who along with her Nobel Prize-winning husband was deported from the Soviet Union in 1974 for their criticism of the Soviet system, said in a statement that Sergei Khodorovich is extremely ill after torture and imprisonment since 1983.

"Sergei Khodorovich is being killed in his place of confinement beyond the polar circle. He is extremely ill," she said in the statement.

She made the statement in Russian by telephone from their Vermont home to the New York-based human-rights group Freedom House, a spokesman for the group said.

Mrs. Solzhenitsyn is president of the Russian Social Fund, founded by her husband before

their 1974 exile, to aid Soviet political prisoners and their families, the spokesman said.

Khodorovich, a computer specialist, was the Moscow manager for the group from 1977 until his arrest in 1983.

Russian Social Fund activities are paid for by royalties from Alexander Solzhenitsyn's Gulag Archipelago books.

Mrs. Solzhenitsyn said Khodorovich was being held in isolation in the closed polar city of Norilsk, and accused Soviet officials of covering up his condition.

"Sergei is extremely ill. After suffering from tuberculosis in his youth, he lost one lung. His liver and stomach are damaged, and for over a year his entire body has been terribly swollen," she said.

Dissident Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet physicist who returned to Moscow last week after seven years in internal exile for his human rights activities, also called for Khodorovich's immediate release.

# Soviet emigres return to emotional homecoming

MOSCOW (AP)—The 50 Soviet emigres who returned home from the United States said they wanted to escape constant fear of crime and economic pressures.

Radio Moscow broadcast the news almost immediately Monday and emphasised that the returning Soviets said they found life in the United States unbearable.

The publicity accorded their return seemed aimed at both the Soviet citizens who have sought unsuccessfully to leave their country and at foreign critics of the Kremlin's tight restrictions on emigration.

Rebecca Kotsap, the first passenger off the Aeroflot Jumbo jet from New York after it landed at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport at 7:40 p.m. (1640 GMT) Monday, wept as she described her feelings.

"There's nothing more important than your motherland," Ms. Kotsap said, tears streaming down her face. "I kiss my native soil with happiness."

Ms. Kotsap, who was in her 50s, said she had lived in New York in constant fear of crime.

"We cannot live there," she said of the United States. "It's a foreign people, a foreign language, a foreign life."

Valery Klever, an artist who emigrated with his family from Leningrad in 1977, was asked if he believed the Soviet Union was freer than American society.

"Of course," Klever answered. "What kind of freedom is there in the United States? It's tough freedom, you have to worry about your life and your apartment, your bills every month, everything."

Klever's wife, Lida, 36, held their son, Nikita, 2. She said they had lived in Maine, New York and

Los Angeles and she would be renouncing her U.S. citizenship.

"I almost lost my hope of getting back," she said. "I think I was a very loyal American, too. I worked. I never had welfare or any other help."

Mrs. Klever said she and her husband had been trying to return since 1979. Asked if she feared official retribution if she criticised some aspect of Soviet society, she answered, "I always spoke my mind when I lived here. I had no such problem."

In the United States, the state-run radio said, the would-be immigrants found they could not cope with the "ruthless competition, the spirit of money making, crime and drug addiction" they found to be rampant.

The publicity given the returnees coincided with articles in the state-run press on the difficulties faced by Soviet citizens when they go abroad to begin a new life.

Such articles have been an apparent attempt to justify the severe restriction of emigration from the Soviet Union. The welcome extended recent returnees contrasts strongly with the treatment once given emigres.

Radio Moscow said most of the latest returnees were Jews. It said some had acquired U.S. citizenship, "but that is not an obstacle to getting permission for residence in the USSR."

"If for some reason, they decide to leave the Soviet Union, they'll be able to do that," it said.

The radio said hundreds of other Soviet immigrants in the United States are seeking to come home and dozens have bought tickets.

# COLUMNS 768

## Tunnel thieves steal jewels

NAPLES, Italy (AP)—Thieves dug their way through sewer pipes to an underground vault of a jewelry store and stole about \$375,000 worth of jewels, police reported. The Italian news agency AGI said that police, judging by the number of tools left behind in the network of pipes, estimated that at least five thieves participated in the tunnelling. Police said the vault was opened with a blowtorch. The Naples police had recently inspected the sewer system to see that no illegal tunnelling was under way, AGI reported. "Tunnel thieves" have made themselves a reputation in Italy, especially in Rome. In July, a judge sentenced six men who had tunneled next to a vault containing \$65 million worth of valuables in Rome's main post office. Police arrested them as the would-be robbers, covered with slime, popped out of manholes. Police thwarted the Rome attempt after passersby heard clanking metal under the street for several nights and notified authorities.

## Peking approves breathalyzer

TOKYO (AP)—A device that turns on all of a car's at taillights when it detects alcohol on the driver's breath got the green light Monday in Peking, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported. The "breathalyzer" will enable police to "detect drunken drivers in a stream of traffic," said the report, monitored in Tokyo. The device was developed by a research institute in Peking's eastern urban district, the report said. It gave no technical details and did not specify who approved the device or say how it would be used.

## Car destroys 15th century building

CANTERBURY, England (AP)—A 500-year-old building near Canterbury Cathedral was destroyed when a car driven by a suicidal driver crashed into it and burst into flames, police said. Oscar Rudolph, owner of Frog's Restaurant next to the Cathedral, positioned his vehicle to face the window of his business, then accelerated to smash through the glass, police said. The car plowed through the dining area, hit the kitchen wall and exploded in flames, killing Rudolph instantly and starting a fire that took 60 firefighters to control, authorities said. The front of the building collapsed into the street. It had an 18th century facade covering a 15th century structure and was legally protected as a historic building. Ertan Ziya, who has a restaurant nearby, said Rudolph was in his 50s and came to Britain after World War II. He said Rudolph had said his third wife had left him and flown to the United States on Christmas Day. "I have nothing to live for and you shouldn't be surprised if one day you see my restaurant blown up," Ziya said Rudolph told him.

## Pilot sights UFOs over Alaska

TOKYO (R)—The captain of a Japanese airliner said he saw three spaceship-like objects, including a huge "mothership" flying near his cargo plane for about 50 minutes over Alaska, Japan's Kyodo News Agency reported. Kyodo quoted Captain Kanetoshi Terauchi as saying he saw huge globe-shaped unidentified flying object (UFO) with two small spaceship-like craft on the evening of Nov. 17. Interviewed in London, Capt. Terauchi said the big craft looked like a "mothership" and gave the appearance of two huge aircraft carriers put back to back. He told Kyodo they accompanied his Japan Air Lines (JAL) special cargo flight 1628 from Paris to Tokyo for about 50 minutes or a distance of 760 kilometres. In Tokyo, a JAL spokesman quoted Capt. Terauchi's flight engineer, Yoshio Tsukuda, as saying he saw unusual lights during the flight including "two lines of lights, which looked like airplane cabin windows." The spokesman said Terauchi was unavailable for comment.

# WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Ettenson

VICTUALS, MAYBE  
By Barbara J. Weakley

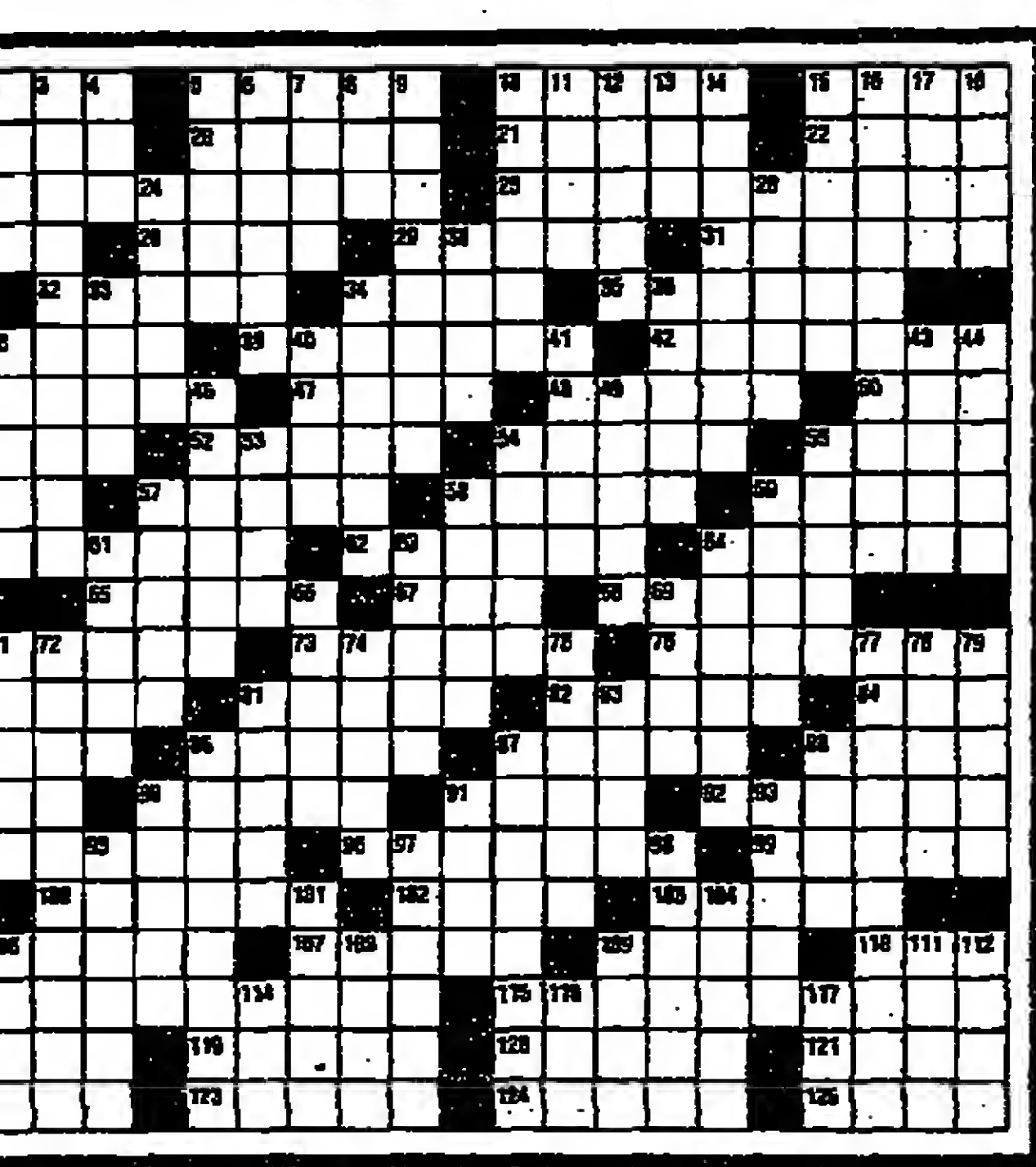
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Last Week's Cryptograms

- Roman dialogue: "I'm not a bit hungry now. I've already had my dinner." "Well, that's all right. I've eaten, Brutes."
- Greenhouse provides bumper crop, much of which is fruits, flowers and vegetables.
- Surprised epicurean spots old monochrome wearer at opera in new auditorium.
- Passive slipper sat idly by, twiddling his thumbs, while chance of a lifetime slipped through his fingers.

CRYPTOGRAMS

- L DUXOX BOX WIP DUNMYE PX AMQP QW  
DUBD BXQEPX IBM LX EXOUBER ZBLFC  
DUBD B IQTESDIO IBMD ZSD DUNMANNY  
NE RSOXFC QMX QW DUT. —By Len Sherry
- ELECTYD ELTNONVNH BLCEK NASHKYCK  
NLTW OL ECKE EYXXRA LB EYDOW OTS  
VCO GNTT. —By Martha P. Gorman
- DUFPUALE FISHY PUFFUALH ISFOLL DUUM  
TUF PAYCAP-CEP LRIMM KH WEHLL KEASE  
WUP PREFE TAELP. —By Ed Rudolphson
- YST ZSOI ZIETOBNI OIM ZIASMN  
AWXNWSN XZ IBZKIT PWN FWI YXZT. —By Alvin B. Lohr



# GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND CHARLIE SHARP  
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NEITHER VULNERABLE. EAST DEALS.  
NORTH  
754  
9764  
WEST  
J2  
85  
9872  
109743  
EAST  
K9  
AJ2  
AKQ1054  
SOUTH  
AQ10863  
KQ103  
J6  
J

The bidding:  
East South West North  
2 3 3 3  
3 NT 4 4 Pass Pass  
Dble Pass Pass Pass  
Opening lead: Eight of ♣

On this day, you could not be blamed for thinking this hand might be some sort of joke. However, let's hasten to assure you that it cropped up in a rubber bridge game and East had to exercise great care to make sure he was not the April Fool.

Despite the fact he had more than half the high-card points, East found that the opponents brushed aside his demand bid and ended up in game, which he doubled. Incidentally, we like East's three no trump